

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Chris Rock rolls into Oscars with confidence

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Female GI demoted over mud-wrestling incident in Iraq

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1st ID steps up patrols in Iraq as tour nears end

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Sgt. Michael Robin, left, with an Iraqi soldier

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005

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THE 2006 DEFENSE BUDGET PROPOSAL



Army plan focuses on force protection in '06

\$244M for more up-armored Humvees, heavy-chassis vehicles

Pages 3-4

A truly Super dynasty

Patriots have place in history after third title in four years

Coverage on Back page, Pages 30-33



AP photos

Left: Patriots fans reach to touch the Vince Lombardi Trophy after New England beat the Philadelphia Eagles, 24-21, in Super Bowl XXXIX in Jacksonville, Fla., on Sunday. Right: Patriots strong safety Rodney Harrison (37) celebrates his interception of Asante Samuel (22) late in the fourth quarter to seal the Patriots' victory over the Eagles.

Soldiers in Iraq hoped for Britney, beers during Super Bowl Page 9

STARS & STRIPES

COMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Busy days ahead
for Green Day

Scene on Sunday

Foxo among black
actors getting kudosDon't miss a
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Togo's new president: Togo's constitutional court swore in 39-year-old Faure Gnassingbe as this tiny West African nation's new president on Monday, despite vows of international condemnation after the military installed him as his late father's successor.

The six-member court conducted the ceremony at the presidential palace, where Gnassingbe raised his right hand to swear the oath.

Gnassingbe comes to power in a tiny, impoverished country with little experience of rule of law. His father, Gnassingbe Eyadema, had held onto power longer than any other modern African leader through force, patronage and the loyalty of his Kabye ethnic group and his Togo People's Rally party.

Ailing pope: Pope John Paul II will remain hospitalized a few more days as a precaution, the Vatican said Monday, a day after the 84-year-old pope appeared at his clinic window to show the world he was recovering from his latest health crisis.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the pope, who he said was continuing to improve, had no fever, was eating regularly and has been sitting in a chair every day for several hours.

"His doctors have advised him to stay a few more days," Navarro-Valls said, declining to set a date for the pope's release.

"I cannot be precise about how many days more" in the hospital, he said. "But the doctors have suggested several more days."

Georgian prime minister's death: The FBI is sending a team of experts to look into last week's death of Georgia's premier and a car bombing that killed three policemen days earlier, the U.S. ambassador said Monday.

The death Thursday of Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania, which officials say appears to have come from carbon-monoxide poisoning, and the car bombing in Gori two days earlier left many Georgians feeling unsettled and some suggesting there may have been a link between the events.

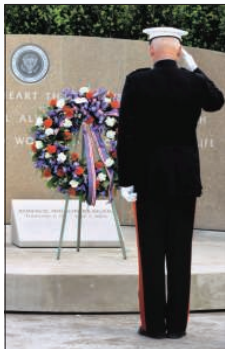
Zhvania was leading efforts to work out a negotiated settlement on South Ossetia, a region that has been de-facto independent since the end of a separatist conflict a decade ago. Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili has vowed to restore control of South Ossetia and another separatist region, Abkhazia.

Dutch terror network: Prosecutors opened their case Monday against 12 men accused of belonging to a terror network suspected in the murder of filmmaker Theo Van Gogh and plots to attack prominent Dutch politicians.

The defendants, mostly young Muslims of North African ancestry, were arrested within in days of Van Gogh's death on Nov. 2 — a killing that shocked the nation and triggered retaliatory attacks on Islamic sites.

Van Gogh, a distant relative of painter Vincent van Gogh, was shot and stabbed on a busy Amsterdam, Netherlands, street. The killer cut his throat and, in a note pinned to the filmmaker's chest with a knife, threatened other attacks in the name of radical Islam.

1998 Omagh bombing: Ireland's anti-terrorist court ruled Monday it could not help



Reagan's birthday: Maj. Gen. Timothy Donovan, commanding officer of the U.S. Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton, Calif., salutes after he and others placed a wreath, sent by President Bush, at the grave of former president Ronald Reagan. Ceremonies were held Sunday on what would have been Reagan's 94th birthday at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif. Former Gov. Pete Wilson was on hand at the celebration conducted by Camp Pendleton Marines. The Marines then honored the nation's 40th chief executive with a 21-gun salute.

survivors of the 1998 Omagh bomb — the deadliest terrorist attack in Northern Ireland history — who are suing five prominent Irish Republican Army dissidents.

The three judges of the Special Criminal Court ruled it would be illegal to provide transcripts or any other material related to the court's handling of cases against four of the five men.

Plane crash in Afghanistan: NATO troops scouring the wreckage of an Afghan airliner atop a snowy mountain peak on Monday found human remains amid the debris but no sign that any of the 104 people on board survived the crash, a spokesman said.

Relatives swarmed toward the freezing mountain to try to retrieve the bodies, but they were turned back by Afghan security forces struggling to mount a recovery operation.

Clear skies allowed a Spanish Cougar helicopter to drop five Slovenian mountain troops onto the mountain top 20 miles east of Kabul, on Monday morning, where they struggled through the deep snow among several pieces of torn fuselage.

Red Brigades trial: Five suspected members of the Red Brigades terrorist group went on trial Monday for their alleged roles in the 2002 killing of a labor consultant.

Marco Biagi, who was advising the Italian

government on bitterly contested labor reforms, was shot to death near his home in Naples in 2002. Days later, the Red Brigades-Communist Party claimed responsibility.

The group is an offshoot of the radical left-fascist movement that terrorized Italy in the 1970s and 1980s.

Paris airport terminal collapse: A government-appointed board of inquiry investigating the partial collapse of a Paris airport terminal found serious errors in construction, including concrete that had not been sufficiently reinforced, a newspaper reported Monday.

But the government's Transport Ministry said the inquiry and its report were not completed and indicated the conclusions published by the daily Le Parisien were "totally premature."

The newspaper said that after nine months of work, the inquiry commission found "several serious errors in the conception" of the futuristic Terminal 2E at Charles de Gaulle airport.

States

Smuggling deaths trial: Jury selection in the trial of a New York man accused of taking part in a smuggling attempt that resulted in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants was again delayed Monday.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted a request by prosecutors to put the trial on hold while it decides whether to return a judge's ruling to have two juries decide the fate of Tyrone Williams.

The trial in the nation's deadliest smuggling attempt was put on hold last month when Williams' attorneys asked the U.S. Supreme Court to make public details about why he is the only one of 14 indicted defendants in the case who faces the death penalty.

BTk investigation: The BTK serial killer investigation is being used as a teaching tool in college criminal justice courses around the country.

The killer known as BTK — which stands for "Bind, Torture, Kill" — has been linked to eight unsolved killings in Wichita, Kan., from 1974 through 1986. BTK resurfaced last March with threats to Wichita media and police.

"It's a very compelling case," said Volkan Topali, an assistant professor in the criminal justice department at Georgia State University in Atlanta. "There's a lot of material to work with."

Michael Jackson trial: Jury selection in the Michael Jackson molestation case has been delayed, but media efforts to learn more about who might eventually sit in judgment of the entertainer are moving ahead. Attorneys for new organizations were to ask Santa Barbara County (Calif.) Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville on Monday to allow reporters to view completed questionnaires filled out last week by 250 prospective jurors.

"It's really vital for the public to be able to have access to the questionnaires while the selection process is occurring — to serve as a check on the process," said media lawyer Theodore Boutsouris, who represents The Associated Press and other news organizations.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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DEFENSE BUDGET PROPOSAL 2006

The Army is budgeting \$224 million for 360 up-armored Humvees and 1,705 heavy chassis Humvees in 2006.



R.J. ORIEZ
Courtesy of
Stars and Stripes

Army prioritizes vehicles

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army largely will stand fast while Defense Department reviews take place in 2005, but one area they will attack is force protection.

The Army is budgeting \$1.025 billion for "mobility assets," a senior Army budget official said Friday, including \$451.5 million for 3,196 tactical medium vehicles and \$224 million for 360 up-armored Humvees and 1,705 heavy chassis Humvees.

The Army budget also includes \$875 million to buy 240 Stryker tactical wheeled vehicles, enough to outfit the Army's sixth Stryker Brigade.

However, the Army is not planning to buy any additional tanks in fiscal 2006, although \$443 million has been set aside to buy 399 new engines for the M1 Abrams tank.

Many more weapons and vehicles will be purchased with supplemental funds, including more armored Humvees and kits to add armor to vehicles already in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although basically flat at \$11.8 billion compared with \$10.4 billion in 2005, the Army's procurement budget request includes program increases for several programs, with an emphasis on "force protection systems," the official said.

That means the service plans to buy more radios, small arms and



TOM BRADBURY/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

The Army's proposed budget for 2006 includes \$875 million to buy 240 Stryker tactical wheeled vehicles, enough to outfit the sixth Stryker Brigade.

See related story on Page 12

crew-served weapons to outfit combat support units, which in the past typically have been short of these assets.

The Army also has asked for \$1.7 billion to buy training and reserve ammunition, with an emphasis on rounds for the M-4 and M-16 rifles and M-9 pistols carried by the entire force.

The Army is the only service whose fiscal 2006 budget line is flat compared with 2005, but it doesn't matter, officials said: "The Army will get 'the lion's share' of

a \$75 billion supplemental request for Iraq and Afghanistan that the Bush administration expects to seek from Congress later this week.

Army officials said they are not permitted to discuss the supplemental in detail until the Defense Department releases the entire request.

The Army budget request for fiscal 2006 is \$98.6 billion. Congress allocated the service \$98.9 billion for fiscal 2005.

"Basically the budget just sustains the level we're at," the official said, funding 482,400 soldiers in the active Army, 205,000 troops in the Army Reserve, and 350,000 troops in the Army National Guard.

Bush administration readies supplemental war budget for 2006

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Bush administration is taking the same approach to defense spending in fiscal 2006 it began with the 2004 budget, presenting a "baseline" request to Congress that is only slightly different from the previous year, but adding billions more with a supplemental request to cover operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Congressional Democrats have been critical of the Bush administration's ongoing use of supplementals to fund the war, saying the requests make it easier for defense officials to avoid congressional oversight of war spending and play a shell game with defense spending.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, Congress has approved \$203 billion in supplemental requests. If the latest request is approved, that goes up to \$280 billion.

But defense officials defend the practice, saying that the security situation in Iraq, especially, is so unpredictable that using the regular budget to fund the operation would be too restrictive.

Because supplemental requests are put together much more quickly than regular budgets, defense officials say they have more flexibility to move and add money as conditions on the ground change.

"We are bearing, clearly, the heavy burden in this war," a senior Army budget official said Friday. "The base budget would not allow us to mobilize our forces."

"We can be more accurate in our estimates," another official added. "It's not hiding anything."

Some analysts disagree.

"The war is not a surprise anomaly," said Steve Kosiak, a top analyst for the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessment in Washington. "We know we're going to be there. Not [budgeting] for war costs is really inexcusable at this point."

"This administration came into office saying they would not play all these games with supplementals, but they've crossed the line, I'd say," he said.

SEE FUNDS ON PAGE 4

The budget request includes a 3.1 percent, across-the-board raise for active-duty soldiers, which will cost taxpayers \$696 million per year, as well as a 2.3 percent raise for Army civilians.

In the past, the Army has asked for raises calculated on rank and time in service. In 2006, however, "the sensing is that we have leveled a lot of the [inequalities] in the pay tables, so there's no need for targeted pay raises," the official said.

The basic allowance for housing, meanwhile, will go up by 4 percent, to accommodate cost-of-living increases. The Army eliminated out-of-pocket housing costs in fiscal 2005, and the 2006 request will continue that policy.

Other personnel programs, such as health care, education and other quality of life efforts, will be funded at their 2005 levels.

None of the funding for personnel programs will be cut.

The Army's family housing budget request is \$1.4 billion in 2006, compared with the \$1.6 billion allocated in 2005. The decrease does not reflect direct cuts to family housing, however. Since 2000, the Army has been shifting the costs of operating much of its housing to the private sector, so the service's family housing costs continue to drop.

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Fewer Raptors, airmen for Air Force

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force would see more money but fewer airmen under the Defense Department's 2006 budget proposal.

The 6 percent increase Pentagon officials have asked for is based on a reduction of about 2,300 active-duty airmen and another 2,100 drop in reservist numbers. Service officials estimate about 3,800 of those posts will be filled by civilian employees instead.

That change is part of ongoing efforts by the force to "remove the military from non-military jobs." Also, all airmen would receive a 3.1 percent pay increase, but civilian Air Force employees would see only a 2.3 percent bump in their salary.

The proposed \$102.9 billion budget was briefed to reporters Friday by senior Air

Force officials. Overall spending would be increased by \$6.9 billion, up more than 6 percent from FY 2005. But officials blamed nearly \$800 million of that on increased fuel prices, and another \$2.1 billion on inflationary costs.

The budget includes plans for the service to build and renovate more than 7,200 housing units next year.

However, the fate of major weapons systems, including the F/A-22 Raptor and C-130 Hercules, has been put on hold. Production of the highly coveted F/A-22 was kept flat in the budget, and plans to buy more C-130J cargo planes in 2006 were canceled.

Senior Air Force officials say decisions on long-term productions of these and other systems won't be answered until after a pair of force readiness studies — the quadrennial defense review and the

Pentagon's mobility and capability study — are finished later this year.

And while the F/A-22 funding will actually decrease by about \$300 million under the plan, officials made it clear they hope force strength studies will support increasing production of the stealth fighter, which they see as the long-term replacement for the force's aging fighter force.

As recently as two years ago, service officials said they needed 381 of the aircraft, but current budget plans would pay for only 179 of them over the next decade.

Air Force researchers will take over research and development of unmanned combat planes in 2006, and \$350 million is proposed to pay for that work.

The budget proposal also calls for \$226 million for creation of a unified space radar system for the entire U.S. intelligence community. In the last two years



LOCKHEED MARTIN/AP

The Air Force's F/A-22 Raptor continues to face steep climb for funding.

about \$240 million has been spent on the system, which is scheduled to be operational in 2015.

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DEFENSE BUDGET PROPOSAL 2006

Carrier to be cut under Navy budget plan

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy wants to cut one of its 12 aircraft carriers, jettison more than 13,000 sailors from its active rolls and slow the purchase of new ships and aircraft, according to the Navy's portion of the 2006 defense budget proposal.

The good news, say service officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, is that with the extra \$6.4 billion they're getting over the \$119 billion approved last year, they'll be able to provide new special pay and bonus money, more housing allowances, stipends for living overseas as well as increases to fleet maintenance and training.

The proposal calls for increasing sailors' base pay by 3.1 percent and civilian salaries by 2.3 percent.

Officials refused to announce which of the Navy's 12 carriers would be cut.

The Mayport, Fla.-based USS John F. Kennedy and Japan-based USS Kitty Hawk are the fleet's two oldest carriers and only remaining conventionally powered big decks.

Kitty Hawk, however, is already slated for decommissioning in 2008, the same year the next nuclear-powered carrier — the George H.W. Bush — comes online, leaving Kennedy as a likely option.

Still, cautioned the officials amid reporter speculation, "some of our oldest carriers are not in the worst material condition."

One official also hinted at a shakeup in homeports for the carrier fleet.

"Certainly there is concern at the Department of the Navy on having all of our carriers at one port," the Navy official said, referring to fleet concentrations in San Diego and Norfolk, Va. He said an environmental study had been earmarked in this budget to look at basing a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Mayport.

"That's certainly a consideration," he said.

Whichever carrier is cut, its corresponding air wing will remain.

The long-term savings of cutting a carrier



COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/SHS

The USS John F. Kennedy is rumored to be the aircraft carrier the Navy would cut out of its fleet under the 2006 defense budget plan.

er will be about \$300 million per year, much of that coming from personnel savings, he said.

Those cuts will be part of the 13,200 sailors the plan would drop from active duty next year. The official said the service would save \$404 million this year — and \$1 billion a year after that — by cutting its active duty rolls from 365,000 to 352,700 next year.

While the Navy will be shrinking, that does not mean sailors should expect more

time underway, he said.

"I don't think any of this means more sea time," the official said.

The Navy will add 23 new jets and helicopters to the fleet next year under the budget request as well as three surface combatants and two logistics ships. It will lose, however, a planned attack submarine, and the purchase of a slew of new ships and aircraft will be slowed down in the coming years.

In all, the fleet will go from 285 ships to

289 ships next year, if the budget is approved, but slowly increase to a planned 305 ships by 2011.

The Navy's purchase of its new F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, which is set to replace four types of aircraft on the flight deck, stays on course with another 38 strike fighters entering the fleet next year, plus another four of its radar-jamming variant.

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Funds: Army awaits \$5B for setting up three new BCTs

FUNDS, FROM PAGE 3

The supplemental request will pay for all the costs associated with Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, including the salaries of an additional 18,000 active-duty soldiers who are now on the payroll, the cost of refurbishing equipment lost or worn out in Iraq and Afghanistan, the ammunition expended by U.S. troops in those countries; and equipping, housing, feeding and entertaining deployed troops.

But the supplemental also will pay for more than just direct war costs. Army officials are counting on receiving \$5 billion in the upcoming request to create and equip three new brigade combat teams — the service's new self-sufficient, lighter, high-tech "transformational" unit with about 4,000 soldiers.

Paying for the three new brigade combat teams in the supplemental is kosher, an Army official said, even though the units will be a permanent part of the Army, not just something cobbed together in response to the Iraq or Afghanistan operations.

"These are forces we are deploying to the battle space," the official said. When Army units return from Iraq rotations, "we are resetting them [as BCTs] to go right back into the war."

USMC planned purchases rolled back

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Marines are hoping to man two new infantry battalions, three Light Armored Reconnaissance Companies and several new support units being added to the active forces, according to the Defense Department's 2006 budget request.

But the service will have to wait longer for the fielding of the new V-22 tilt-rotor Osprey and amphibious Expeditionary Assault Vehicle, according to officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In all, the White House hopes to put \$17.5 billion into the corps coffers next year. The proposal calls for increasing Marines' base pay by 3.1 percent and civilian salaries by 2.3 percent.

Manpower for the new units will come from job conversions that put civilians into positions that some 2,500 Marines had been filling, according to a senior Pentagon official who briefed reporters Friday.

Meanwhile, an additional 3,000 Marines will be temporarily added to the Corps' active strength of 175,000 in a separate "supplemental" budget request expected to go to Congress soon.



According to the 2006 defense budget proposal, the Marine Corps will cut the purchase of its V-22 tilt-rotor Osprey next year from 15 to nine.

VERNON PUGH
Courtesy of
the U.S. Navy

Cash for new bonus money is also expected to be part of the Corps' portion of the supplemental.

The Corps is projecting it will buy 1,310 new Humvees and 77 of its 155 mm Howitzers as part of its \$1.4 billion procurement budget proposal for 2006.

The Marines will cut the purchase of the still-developmental V-22 tilt-rotor Osprey next year from 15 to nine. In 2007, purchases will be cut in half from

29 to 14. In all, over the next four years, plans now call for the Corps to buy a total of 72 Ospreys instead of the 107 that had been planned.

The Expeditionary Assault Vehicle, slated to begin replacing the Corps' aging fleet amphibious armored vehicles this year, now won't begin hitting units until 2007, according to service officials.

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Merger of task force's staffs bolters capabilities

CTF-67 aircraft offers support for maritime security patrols

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily — The joining of Combined Task Force 67's operational and headquarters staff in Sigonella has created a synergy and increased the unit's capabilities, Navy officials say.

As part of the Navy's transformation efforts in Europe, the CTF-67 headquarters was moved to Sigonella in October from Naples, Italy, joining the headquarters staff with the operational sailors who carry out the day-to-day missions.

But the change is much more than just a physical move, said Rear Adm. C. Van Mauney, director of Navy Europe Plans and Operations.

"We capitalize on current technology and look for ways to use new technology, employing better business practices and putting new operational concepts into play that support European command's focus to the South and East," Van Mauney said in a statement. "CTF-67 is focusing on all those areas and the result is that their operations have increased their value and have made specific contributions to our theater priorities."

At the heart of CTF-67 are the squadrons of P-3 Orions that deploy to Sigonella every six months, providing maritime surveillance and reconnaissance for the U.S. and NATO forces, he said. The task force is made up of land-based maritime patrol aircraft that operate over the Mediterranean, mostly in anti-submarine, reconnaissance, surveillance and mining roles.

"They're out there looking at vessels transiting the high seas, looking for the potential bad actors," said the commander, Navy Capt. Robert Lally.

But the versatile P-3 aircraft, originally made to hunt for subs, doesn't have to stick to the high seas to track the enemy, as was proven in missions flown over Afghanistan, Iraq and Liberia, he said.

"The concept is to search, locate, trace and put a ship in tow," said Lally, who moved to Sigonella this fall from Japan to command the command. "The same concept can be put in practice over land. [The aircraft] can provide the eyes over the horizon."

The task force, one of eight units under the U.S. Sixth Fleet command, provides tactical mis-



JESSE L. PAQUIN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

AP-3C Orion assigned to the "Mad Foxes" of Patrol Squadron Five makes its final approach to land at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily, during routine flight operations. The "Mad Foxes" are deployed in support of the war on terrorism.

'Mad Foxes': World travelers in the war on terror

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily — The "Mad Foxes" have traveled from El Salvador to Bahrain to help fight the global war on terror.

The 430 sailors of Patrol Squadron 5 — though based at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla. — are currently flying their four P-3 Orions out of Sigonella during a six-month routine deployment.

The unit's sailors, such as Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeremy Fox, have been trekking around the world.

Fox, 21, an aviation electrician's mate, spent about a month-and-a-half at the end of last year in El Salvador maintaining one of the squadron's aircraft that was aiding the U.S. Coast Guard and El Salvadoran military to track vessels possibly smuggling narcotics.

And while he might not be on the front lines, Fox said, he's out there making a difference and seeing the world — two reasons why he joined the service more than three

years ago.

The squadron got its name in 1948 after being equipped with the first Lockheed P2V Magnetic Anomaly Detector, or MAD — a device that can detect a submerged submarine.

The Sigonella deployment, which started in early December, has some sailors working outside their rates.

Petty Officer 3rd Class David Bergeron, an aviation electronics technician by trade, has taken on the task as the "barracks super."

"I'm the quality-of-life guy at the barracks, trying to keep everyone happy. If they're happy there, they're happy here," said the 22-year-old sailor during an interview at the squadron's hangar.

No one VP squadron said Sigonella home, at least not for long. A new one rotates in

every six months, providing the surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities needed to meet requirements for the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

The reason for the move is that it's cheaper for the Navy to deploy a squadron from its home base than to pay the permanent change-of-station costs to base sailors and their families at Sigonella, said Navy Capt. Robert Lally, commanding officer of Combined Task Force 67. The deployed squadrons fall under his command.

Deploying to places such as Sigonella can be tough on the squadron's members, said Cmdr. Sean Cannon, the squadron's commanding officer.

"Our biggest challenge is that this is not our hangar, and we have to get used to working in someone else's home," he said.

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The squadron got its name in 1948 after being equipped with the first Lockheed P2V Magnetic Anomaly Detector, or MAD — a device that can detect a submerged submarine.

sion support to both U.S. and NATO maritime patrol aircraft, said Lally, who is known as "commodore," a courtesy title that harkens to the late 18th century when the Navy's highest rank was captain, and those in com-

mand of squadrons of ships or aircraft were called commodores.

Sailors assigned to CTF-67 also are helping the U.S. Coast Guard and El Salvadoran military detect vessels that might be

transporting narcotics. Some soon will deploy to Africa to join the USS Emory S. Land in the Gulf of Guinea to help African nations boost maritime security, Lally said.

CTF-67 also participates in a

variety of NATO and coalition exercises, and now are gearing up for next month's annual exercise Noble Marlin with militaries from Canada, France, Portugal and Italy.

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Lally

Lakenheath continues tsunami-aid efforts

By RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — After donating more than \$25,000 for the victims of the tsunami in South Asia, the people at RAF Lakenheath are now offering items to an orphanage in Sri Lanka caring for hundreds of people affected by the natural disaster.

Everything from blankets to buckets and tinned goods to toothpaste is needed in the country where about 30,000 were killed and more than 6,000 are still missing.

Elise Preston, one of the organizers of both efforts, said the items would be placed in a container sent by ship to the Sri Lanka orphanage run by the Rev. Francisco Lloyd Fernando. She

heard him speak at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Theford, near the base, and suggested the base help out.

One truckload of goods already has been sent to the Theford church, she said, and another load of items will soon make its way there. A parishioner at the church purchased a container to carry the items.

This effort follows a basewide drive that raised \$225,760.90. The money was given to Catholic Re-

lief Services, World Vision and the American Red Cross.

That includes more than \$11,000 raised during a special collection by congregations at the base chapel on Jan. 22 and 23, said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Srode, the 48th Fighter Wing chaplain.

"That was the largest collection we had over the last 12 months," he said. "Everybody wanted to help."

That money was added to funds

gathered by other organizations on base. Preston said Master Sgt. Gabriel Eldridge of the 48th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron began an effort to raise money. She contacted him to help and was told he was transferring and his colleagues were deploying.

Preston took over the effort and enlisted the help of the Keystone Club and the Junior ROTC at the high school and the Officers and Civilians Spouses' Club, among others groups. Collection buckets were set up around the base for the effort.

"I think everyone felt so helpless," she said. She said one person put a check for \$1,000 in a bucket.

At RAF Feltwell, the kindergarten pupils of Wanda Wood were doing their part. They sold mixes

of cocoa and coffee in plastic containers, raising \$206, which was donated to the American Red Cross.

The mixes were homemade by the children and included such items as instant coffee or cocoa, coffee creamers and, in the case of the coffee, crushed candy canes for a minty flavor, among other ingredients.

"I have to say, they were very good," Wood said.

She used the disaster and the fund-raising effort as a teaching tool across the curriculum, from geography and social studies to math.

The highlight came, she said, when the representative from the Red Cross visited to collect the money.

"They were very, very proud," she said of her children.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensen@mail.estripes.osd.mil

MP demoted after flashing incident

By MARTHA WAGGONER
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Military officials have demoted a female member of a National Guard military police unit in official exposure after a mud-wrestling party at the Camp Bucca detention center in Iraq.

Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, spokesman for detainee operations at the U.S. Army-run camp, did not release the name of the soldier, who lifted her shirt and showed her chest in photographs taken at the party.

The New York Daily News identified her as Deanna Allen, 19, and Allen's mother, Ladena Waldrop of Black Mountain, confirmed the identification.

Several photographs of the party printed in the Daily News showed women wrestling in bras and panties in front of a crowd of male soldiers.

After an inquiry, Allen was demoted from specialist to private first class, received a pay cut and was placed on restriction. She is still a guard at the camp, the newspaper said.

Waldrop said her daughter is devastated by the events.

"It was just a thing where she was coerced by a bunch of people, and with all the excitement, she lost her sanity for a moment and that's all it took," she said.

"It seems like they're just singling her out," Waldrop said. "She's the one getting all the publicity and punishment, and that's not right."

The party occurred Oct. 30, at the 160th Military Police Battalion, an Army Reserve Unit from Tallahassee, Fla., prepared to turn over its duties to the Asheville-based 105th Military Police Battalion, Johnson said.

In the course of the transfer of duties, "some individuals in their exuberance decided to put together a mud-wrestling thing," Johnson said Sunday.

Photos of the party were found after the 160th had left Iraq, Johnson said, adding that he understood a soldier had turned over the photos to commanders.

Johnson said it appeared the party was "primarily put on by troops of the 160th," and results of the inquiry were sent to the unit's commander. It wasn't immediately clear if any members of the 160th had been disciplined.

Four or five other members of the 105th who were spectators at the party received counseling, Johnson said.

Johnson said the party was not held within sight of detainees. A scandal involving the separate Abu Ghraib prison erupted last spring when photographs were made public showing soldiers taunting naked Iraqi prisoners.

IMA-Europe honors journalists

Officials from the Installation Management Agency-Europe have announced their 2004 Keith L. Ware journalism award winners.

In the print category, they are:

■ **Tabloid newspaper** — Herald Union, 104th Area Support Group, Hanau, Germany;

■ **News article** — Scott Rorow, 98th ASG, Würzburg, Germany;

■ **Feature article** — Jayme Loppnow, 233rd Base Support Battalion, Darmstadt, Germany;

'Toilet bowl math' wins over Darmstadt pupils

By JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany — The Darmstadt Elementary School staff likes it when pupils have accidents in the bathrooms — or anywhere else for that matter.

In fact, school principal Russ Claus is spearheading an effort to make accidents more commonplace throughout the school.

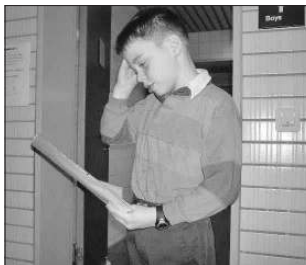
The effort is called "accidental learning," and it works by putting up math problems in otherwise unused spaces. The hope is to catch a child off guard and sharpen his or her skills without the youngster even knowing it.

Claus said he got the idea from stateside restrooms that used the blank space above men's room urinals as an area to get in a good sports read or a funny advertisement.

So, he came back to the school armed with mathematical word problems, placed them in plastic sleeves and taped them at pupil height above urinals, on the walls of restroom stalls, near sinks, and at the entrances.

"I call it toilet bowl math," Claus said, laughing. "It's really fun to listen to. Out in the hallways you can hear students discussing it. They like it so much that they've even asked if we could put more up so they could do them during recess on the playground."

Rebekah McNichol, a paraprofessional at the elementary school, has taken over the duties of making fresh and fun math problems on a regular basis to keep the cycle of learning alive.



Isaac O'Neil, 9, ponders one of his favorite math problems, which he got out of one of the stalls in the boy's restroom at the Darmstadt Elementary School, Darmstadt, Germany.

JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

"I like it. It really motivates me and helps me out," said 9-year-old Isaac O'Neil, who says he sometimes uses the problems as an excuse to get away from it all.

"For example, if I'm having a bad day and I just want to cool down, I can take the time in the bathroom to do the problem," Isaac said.

It's not all just about accidental learning, though. Sometimes the elementary school staff likes when it's done on purpose, too.

As part of the Making Math Matter program at Darmstadt Elementary School, children are tackling problems all over the place.

The Problem of the Week program allows pupils to test their knowledge and choose between a primary or graduate problem and then submit it for review.

A family math night is coming up Feb. 16, focusing on math standards

in a game format. That way, it's fun for the whole family, Claus said.

Even the military thinks math matters, as troops from the 39th Finance Battalion, out of the 233rd Base Support Battalion, come out for weekly visits to be math mentors.

Pupils in fourth and fifth grades could participate in the before-school Math Challengers programs on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m.

With the Measuring Up program, classrooms use an indoor-outdoor thermometer to chart temperature changes and teachers put up yardsticks so things can be measured when needed throughout the day.

Finally, a Mathematics Hall of Fame highlights pupils' research, as well as a 3-D interactive display with sound and games.

This all shows, with or without accidents, math truly matters, according to Claus.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigo@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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■ **Commentary** — Hugh C. McBride, 6th ASG, Stuttgart, Germany;

■ **Sports article** — Michael S. Mowrer, 26th ASG, Heidelberg, Germany;

■ **Story series** — June Jeffrey, 221st Base Support Battalion, Wiesbaden, Germany;

■ **Stand-alone photograph** — Diana Bahr, 22th ASG, Vicenza, Italy;

■ **Photorealism** — Christine June, 415th BSB, Kaiserslautern, Germany;

■ **Contribution by stringer (writer)** — Tom Larscheid, 80th ASG, Chivères, Belgium;

■ **Contribution by stringer (photographer)** — Gene Knudsen, 26th ASG, Heidelberg;

■ **Civilian Journalist of the Year** — Hugh C. McBride, 6th ASG, Stuttgart;

■ **Special achievement in print media** — The Citizen, 6th ASG, Stuttgart;

In the broadcast category:

■ **Command Information Plan** — Donna Dean, 221st BSB, Wiesbaden;

Winners will compete in the upcoming Army-wide competition. From staff reports

Photos from the Front

Presented by Stars and Stripes Advertising & AIG Europe



ABOVE Sgt. Robert Pulliam, Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, refuels a UH-60 Black Hawk at the Afghan National Army Regional Corps Assistance Group base outside Herat, Afghanistan.

Photo provided by U.S. Army

BELOW Master Sgt. Eileen Konopacki guides Sgt. Charles D. Duncan, Headquarters and Headquarters Company Coalition Task Force Bronco, through preventive maintenance checks and services on a .50-caliber machine gun in Afghanistan.

Photo by Monica R. Garreau, U.S. Army



RIGHT Two soldiers with the 367th Engineer Battalion erect the frame for a generator shelter. The frames were added to all generators at Shindand Airfield, Afghanistan, to protect them from the harsh winter weather.

Photo provided by U.S. Army



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Residents look through the windows of a van destroyed during an overnight patrol by American and Iraqi soldiers in the Sadr City area of western Baghdad on Monday. According to eyewitnesses, an Iraqi man was shot by U.S. or Iraqi forces during the incident.

Attacks on police station, hospital kill at least 30

BY MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents struck at Iraqi police with a suicide bomb, a car bomb and mortars in the cities of Mosul and Baquba on Monday, killing at least 30 people as they pressed their campaign to undermine the fledgling security forces.

Also Monday, U.S. troops manning a checkpoint found four Egyptian technicians who had been kidnapped the previous day in Baghdad, freeing them and arresting some of the abductors, an Egyptian diplomat said.

"It's the Americans who freed them," Farooq Mabrouk, head of the Egyptian mission, told The Associated Press. "They were released and they will come to the embassy."

He said the Americans had "made some arrests" but gave no further information.

In Baquba, a car bomb exploded outside the gates of a provincial police headquarters, killing 15 people and wounding 17, police Col. Mudhahir al-Jubouri said. Many victims were there to seek jobs as policemen, al-Jubouri said.

In the northern city of Mosul, a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the compound of Junhour Teaching Hospital, killing 12 policemen guarding the site and injuring four others, hospital officials said.

The bomb went off outside the hospital building, hospital Director Taiseen Ali Mahmoud al-Obeidi said. Witnesses said the bomber called the police officers over to him and then blew up among the crowd.

"I heard an explosion. When I went to check, I saw bodies everywhere," al-Obeidi said.

The ground was soaked with blood. Nurses collected body parts, putting them in bags.

In a posting on a Web site, the al-Qaida in Iraq group, led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said "a lion from the Martyrs Brigade" wearing explosives belt managed to get inside a police post at the Mosul hospital. The claim could not be verified.

Also Monday, insurgents shelled a police station in Mosul with more than a dozen mortar rounds, killing three civilians, a police official said.

Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, has seen daily insurgent attacks and rebel clashes with U.S. troops and Iraqi security forces.

The attacks were the latest sign that insurgents

are stepping up attacks against Iraq's security forces, which the United States hopes can assume a greater role in fighting the rebels once a newly elected government takes office.

The violence and kidnappings raise new concerns about security following a brief downturn in violence after the Jan. 30 elections, when Iraqis chose a new National Assembly in the first nationwide balloting since the fall of Saddam Hussein in April 2003.

A final tally was expected by Thursday, but initial returns point to a landslide by Shiite Muslim candidates endorsed by their clerics. Shiites are believed to comprise about 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people.

In Sweden, the Foreign Ministry said Monday that it was investigating reports that a Swedish citizen of Iraqi origin was kidnapped last month.

Foreign ministry spokeswoman Anna Arvidson confirmed that a Swedish citizen in his 60s had been reported missing in Iraq and that Sweden's embassy in Amman, Jordan, was investigating the case.

"He is a Swedish citizen and has been living in Iraq for a couple of years," Arvidson said.

The missing man was identified by newspapers as Minas Ibrahim al-Yousifi, the purported leader of the Christian Democratic Party in Iraq. The Foreign Ministry refused to identify the missing man.

Meanwhile, an Italian journalist who was kidnapped Friday will be released in the next few days, according to an Internet statement released in the name of the Iraqi militant group holding her on Monday.

"After the judicial committee of the Jihad Organization interrogated the Italian captive Giuliana Sgreña, it has been found that the Italian captive is not involved in spying for the infidels in Iraq," the group said in a statement posted on a Web site that frequently carries messages from Islamic militants.

On Sunday, the U.S. command denied a report by an Iraqi police captain that 22 Iraqi security troops and 14 insurgents were killed Sunday night when rebels tried to storm a police station in a village south of Baghdad.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press on Sunday, Capt. Muthana Khalid Ali of the Babil provincial police command had said the attack occurred in Al-Bu Musa Mustafa village, in the Mahawil district, about 50 miles south of Baghdad. However, U.S. command spokeswoman Capt. Patricia Brewer said no attack occurred, citing provincial authorities. Capt. Ali later said he had misread the initial report.

Army forgives debts of wounded soldiers

129 mistakenly charged expenses

BY LIZ SIDOTI

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army has identified 129 wounded soldiers who mistakenly received bills for expenses upon returning home from wars — in some cases instead of final paychecks — and it has forgiven their debts.

After learning of the first such cases, Army Gen. Richard A. Cody said, an audit team determined that other wounded soldiers "experienced pay issues" and the Army has made changes it hopes will prevent other instances.

"We are dedicated to the well being of our soldiers and strive to provide the absolute best for America's sons and daughters," Cody, the Army's vice chief of staff, said in a letter sent late Friday to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The Democrat from New York intervened in the case of Spc. Robert Loria, who lost his arm in Iraq. In December, as Loria was about to be discharged from the Army, officials told the

27-year-old soldier from Middletown, N.Y., that he owed nearly \$1,800 in expenses.

Loria, who was wounded last February, had expected to get a check for nearly \$4,500.

Also and other members of the New York delegation claimed that the Army's estimate of expenses owed was too large and based in part on paperwork errors and bureaucratic complications. The Army ultimately forgave Loria's debt.

But after Clinton's office received other similar complaints, she sent a letter to the Army on Jan. 19 asking what procedures were in place to avoid similar cases. She said the complaints she had heard "suggest serious systemic problems."

In his response, Cody said Army medical and financial officials now meet individually with wounded soldiers to ensure they are aware of any entitlements they are owed. And, he said, the Army has established financial support teams at hospitals for wounded soldiers to swiftly take care of any such problems.

Voting problems emerge

BY MARIAM FAM

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Some polling stations were shuttered.

Others ran out of ballots. A provincial governor's name was left off the list of candidates. And some minorities complain it is all a plot to silence them.

One week after Iraq's historic election, allegations of confusion, mismanagement or worse are surfacing, complicating the vote count and perhaps providing ammunition for politicians to question the process. If they do not face well in the final tally.

It is too early to tell if the criticism can undermine the legitimacy of the incoming National Assembly. But in some local races, fears are already strong that flawed elections will give rise to

provincial councils with skewed demographic representation.

The most serious allegations are concentrated in violence-plagued areas or those with mixed religious and ethnic groups. Failure to reconcile dissonance over the Jan. 30 vote could worsen local tensions.

Iraq's election commission says it has received more than 100 complaints of irregularities. It has formed an independent team of three lawyers to investigate, though election officials have sought to downplay the scope and seriousness of the problems.

"There are political parties that have contested the legitimacy of the election process even before the voting started," election official Adel al-Lami said. "It's because they know they won't get many votes."

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,448 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,105 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Neth-

erlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,310 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 996 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Sunday in a roadside bombing north of Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

McCartney not a Super hit with GIs in Iraq

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq — Spc. Jones, take a letter. To: The National Football League

From: Young American soldiers in the desert

Re: The Super Bowl XXXIX halftime show

Take all that Super Bowl ad money and buy a clue.

"Where is Britney Spears?"

Troops want Britney, beer, wings and beer

asks Pfc. Joshua Payton, a 21-year-old 1st Infantry Division soldier from Ironton, Ohio, watching the halftime show at Forward Operating Base Wilson's dining facility.

"That was whack," says Staff Sgt. Jamie Riley, Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, as the last notes of "Live

and Let Die" fade from the huge television.

"This is where you make a beer run," Payton counters.

"Volunteer to make a beer run," replies Riley. "I'd rather see the AFN ads!"

It's hard enough getting up in the middle of the night, Iraq time, to watch football. Even the Super Bowl. So, when all they have is

Red Bull and alcohol-free beer, soldiers need somebody besides Paul McCartney to party, especially for a low-scoring, defensive game.

At 7:32 into the third-quarter, Fox finally shows a close-up of a cheerleader, drawing a hoot from the crowd.

"That's the best highlight of the whole game!" yells Staff Sgt. Dou-

glas Darden, a 33-year-old 1st ID soldier from Fayetteville, Texas.

The refrain here at this small base outside Tikrit is, next year will be better.

Less Paul McCartney, more Britney Spears, says Payton. More beer, chicken wings, women, and, most importantly, sleep back in the real world instead of missions, mud and microwave popcorn fished out of care packages in a corner of the dining facility.

Yes, football is sacred, Payton says. "You're not an American if you don't watch the Super Bowl." But, he adds, Wilson is "a working FOB," where missions go out around the clock. And his duty day begins at 0800, Super Bowl Monday or not.

Strolling into the DFAC at 2:45 a.m., Riley shouts to the small, sleepy crowd. "Yeah, we gotta pajama party this morning."

With many soldiers scheduled for dawn missions, "We're going to be hurting tomorrow. Or today, I should say."

Only about 35 soldiers out of more than 200 here got up before the chickens and made it to the dining facility for the game, especially with 1st ID troops preparing to return home to Schweinfurt, Germany, via Kuwait. Many of the rest watched it in their barracks.

Especially Philadelphia Eagles fans. It's the sound of one man clapping when the Eagles get on the board first with a touchdown at 9:35 to go in the first quarter.

"Donovan McNabb is the best player in the league," says Spc. Ray Simmons, 21, 1-4 Cavalry, who happens to share the same hometown with McNabb — Chicago.

Simmons sticks it out to the bitter end as the Eagles lose 24-21 to the Patriots.

Just how soldiers view the game goes far beyond winning and losing to whether they're coming or going. Simmons and his 1st ID comrades are on their way home.

Representing the newly arrived National Guardsmen are the Boston contingent sitting right in front of the TV. The game was the same as last year — Patriots win — when he was back home in Boston "minus the beer and women," says Spc. Ryan McLane, 23.

These guys are hard-core fans, and McLane and Staff Sgt. Fred Vestal, 42, with the 42nd Infantry Division — attached to the 1st Squadron, 27th Regimental Combat Team out of Tennessee — are sporting Patriots headgear.

Homies Sgt. James Gallagher, 28, and Spc. Jose Perez, 24, round out the Boston foursome.

It's a "fantastic" game, McLane says. The most fun since the Red Sox came back from three games down in October to beat the New York Yankees in the American League Championship Series, Vestal says. The Red Sox would go on to win their first World Series in 86 years.

Ah, except now, it dawns on them they have 10 months left in Iraq, not to mention a year till the next Super Bowl.

"That was," McLane says soberly as he watches Patriots players celebrating on the field, "all we had to look forward to."

Then his face brightens — the Sox's first game is only six weeks away.

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boyd@mail.stripes.osd.mil

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1st ID unit pounds pavement as Iraq mission nears end

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq

In a relatively large force of 14 soldiers, a joint 1st Infantry Division/Iraqi army patrol flows through town with the relentlessness of Jehova's Witnesses working a virgin neighborhood.

House by house, block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood, they cover mile after mile of Ad-Dawr, a Sunni Triangle town of 12,000 people.

Just when residents are sure the patrols have passed, there's a knock at the door. Soldiers seem to be everywhere after Bradley fighting vehicles drop scouts from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment for a sunset rendezvous with Iraqi counterparts.

Seven hours later, they've searched dozens of houses.

"Boy," says Sgt. Daniel Veach at about 10 p.m., "the night really flies by when you're busy."

For Veach and his scouts, Thursday night is one of their last after 12 days, hundreds of missions, big victories and bad days including three attacks in the past week.

But instead of letting the clock run, they're playing like they're behind even as 3rd Infantry Division and 42nd Infantry Division soldiers arrive to replace the 1st ID.

"A lot of guys sit on the ball," says Spc. Justin Patterson. "But we don't want these new guys to be overwhelmed."

"We want a really good battle handover," Veach says. "We don't want everything we worked for to turn to expletive."

"Before elections, we were reacting [to attacks]," Sgt. Michael Robin says. "Now, we're making them react to us — keeping them guessing."

Not so long ago, Ad-Dawr was ignored because it was quiet, 1st ID officers say. But when an October offensive drove the insurgents out of Samarra, they regrouped in Ad-Dawr.

A night engaging the enemy is atypical for scouts, who are more likely to pull surveillance in vulnerable Iraqi army positions or search for insurgents firing rockets.

In Ad-Dawr, they've become dismounted infantry.

A night on the town offers the chance for what soldiers term "movement to contact," which means luring the enemy to an unfair fight.

"You always want contact on your terms, but the bottom line is, the enemy is reluctant to pop RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades] at tanks," says 1st Lt. Joey Campbell. "They will fire on the mounts. They don't realize there are Bradys or tanks in overwatch positions."

Lately, insurgents have reminded the scouts that despite their best efforts, this is still their town.

On Tuesday, a grenade went off a few feet from Spc. Javier Aguilar, spraying him with shrapnel. A few days before that, a makeshift bomb knocked out Staff Sgt. Reginald Graham, a Bradley commander, as he ferried a squad of scouts to Ad-Dawr.

Both soldiers recovered quickly. On Thursday, Aguilar was back but subdued.

Doing this night after night takes fortitude: Insurgents always have the initiative, setting bombs, or shooting, then disappearing into alleys.

Thursday night is — all things considered — a pretty good night in a bad place. Still, the new guys are inheriting an angry populace loyal to their deposed benefactor, Saddam Hussein.

"That tells you all you need to know about the city," Patterson says.

"People down here really, really despise us," Veach says early in the evening. Ad-Dawr is home to Izzat Ibrahim Al-Douri, Saddam's former vice president of the Revolutionary Council and current insurgent leader. Al-Douri's mansion in a neighborhood of mega-houses remains unfinished as if he might return any minute.

But people here are no longer Iraq's elite, Veach says. "Now they're just ordinary Iraqis, and they hate us for that. That's what we're dealing with here."

Of course, nothing in Iraq is quite that simple. There are seven tribes in the area, says Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Stockdill. Every neighborhood has a different feel.

When soldiers knock, they're usually greeted with reserved politeness. In one northside neighborhood, an older, distinguished couple seems pleased to host the soldiers, even if the soldiers say their family is suspect.

"Colar? Cha? Coffee?" the wife asks Veach and his soldiers. The husband beams as he holds a little boy.

Elsewhere, men and women, young and old, walk stiffly past the patrol. Arab searches intrusive? Yes, say soldiers. But they say Ad-Dawr only got worse during the months they left it alone. Soldiers try not to intimidate Iraqis, though that's difficult when entering houses wearing battle rattle, Kevlar and carrying weapons, Robin says.

"We're not trying to win hearts and minds," Stockdill says. "Most people are already on one side or the other."

Still, he says, soldiers have to persuade Iraqis "we're not bad guys. I try to talk as a parent, not a soldier. Try to talk as a father" who understands the fear of sending children to a school targeted by bombers.



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

American and Iraqi soldiers wait for Iraqi forces to pick up three men suspected of building improvised bombs in Ad-Dawr, Iraq.

After a dry spell, Veach and company hit a smallish-but-never house full of evidence that someone's been busy, perhaps making roadside bombs.

Curious electrical devices are everywhere, including a detonator cap. There are long rods that look like sparklers, used to ignite Russian rockets. Everything can be explained away, the three men inside say, until soldiers find a mujahideen recruitment DVD.

American soldiers zip-strip the men and Iraqi soldiers take them away.

At least a few, the Americans are the best hope for normalcy. On Tuesday, a neighborhood man tipped soldiers, who seized three suspects in the grenade attack.

"He said he was tired of the gunfire, tired of the violence," Veach said. "I couldn't believe it. It's usually, 'Mister, I hear nothing.'"

So the 1st ID soldiers keep the pressure on Ad-Dawr as time runs out. They'll keep pushing until the last patrol, but that last patrol is on their minds.

After the soldiers are back into the personnel carriers, and the Bradys are reaching cruising speed, Veach raises his hand and flashes four fingers at his comrades.

Four more missions.

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boyd@mail.strips.osd.mil

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IN THE WORLD

Rice pushes U.S. role in peace plan

Israel, Palestinians say they'll declare cease-fire

BY ANNE GEARAN
The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Monday promised active U.S. involvement in Mideast peace-making, saying Washington would dispatch a high-level "security coordinator" to the region and send more than \$40 million in immediate aid to the Palestinians.

Rice also said Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon have accepted invitations for separate meetings with President Bush at the White House in the spring.

Israeli and Palestinian officials said Monday that the two sides will declare a formal end to more than four years of fighting at Tuesday's Mideast summit in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

She added what she has heard from both sides bodes well for their summit on Tuesday.

"The U.S. will do its part," she said at a joint news conference with Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Rice said Lt. Gen. William E. Ward, deputy commanding general for U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, has been chosen for the job of security coordinator.

She said Ward, who was also posted in Germany, Somalia and Egypt, would visit the Middle East in coming weeks and report directly to her.

Ward will monitor compliance with security requirements, including reform of the Palestinian security forces, Rice said. She



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, left, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas stand next to a photo of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the presidential headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Monday.

stressed that the United States prefers that Israel and the Palestinians negotiate with each other directly.

Israel in the past has balked at international monitors, but a top Sharon aide said Ward would be welcome. "This is someone who will be like a referee, if there is a need ... on to mediate and prevent a crisis," said the aide, Raanan Gissin. "The American involvement will increase as progress is made."

Bush said that the background for peace talks has improved with Abbas' election.

"Abbas comes to the table with a mandate from a lot of Palestinians," Bush told reporters at the end of a Cabinet meeting. "He has been through an election. He

was endorsed by the Palestinian people." Abbas was elected the president of the Palestinian Authority on Jan. 9, succeeding the late Yasser Arafat.

Bush said he was impressed by Abbas' commitment to fighting terror, and by Israel's assistance in the Palestinian elections. During his visit to Ramallah, Rice praised Abbas, saying he is following through on his mandate to restore calm in the Palestinian areas and that he has helped jump-start peace efforts with Israel.

Her meeting with Abbas ended years of strained relations between the United States and the Palestinians under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, shunned by Washington as a leader tainted by terrorism.

Ward's Army background

Lt. Gen. William E. "Kip" Ward is deputy commanding general for U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army.

Ward was commissioned in 1971. Before taking the USAREUR position — the second Germany tour of his career — Ward was headquartered in Sarajevo, Bosnia, as commander of the Stabilization Force for Operation Joint Forge.

Ward's Middle East experience includes his tour as chief of the Office of Military Cooperation in the American Embassy in Egypt.

He participated in Operation Restore Hope in Mogadishu, Somalia, as commander of the 2nd Brigade of the 10th Mountain Division (Light) from Fort Drum, N.Y., and his command of the 25th Infantry (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii, at Schofield Barracks.

Ward has served two tours on the Army Chief of Staff and two tours on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

— Stars and Stripes

The Palestinians, in turn, had complained that Bush, at least in his first term, favored Israel and was not active enough in trying to resolve the Mideast conflict.

18 die at Spanish hostel

TODOLELLA, Spain — The host of the birthday party that ended in tragedy survived by sleeping in another room, while 18 guests died of apparent carbon monoxide poisoning from a malfunctioning gas heater, authorities said Monday.

Autopsies were carried out overnight following the discovery of the bodies Sunday afternoon at a hostel converted from 15th century hermitage in the Maestrazgo mountain district near this village in eastern Spain.

The dead included 11 men and seven women, most of them at least 30 years old. They slept together in an open room warmed by a butane gas heater.

Raid ends standoff

BERN, Switzerland — Swiss special forces stormed the Spanish consulate Monday to end a hostage standoff nearly seven hours after three masked assailants broke into the building, but the suspected robbers managed to elude police, authorities said.

The three, believed to be armed with knives and a handgun, had seized the consulate in the Swiss capital shortly before 8 a.m., taking three people hostage, authorities said. One captive managed to escape and the two others were let go, they said.

A special police unit went into the consulate around 2:30 p.m. but were unable to find the suspects, said a Swiss Ministry of Justice spokesman for Bern state police.

No shots were fired, he said.

Pubs can expand hours

LONDON — Pubs, clubs and other drinking venues in England and Wales can apply to stay open 24 hours a day, British lawmakers that come into effect Monday.

Currently, many British drinkers imbibe as much as they can as quickly as they can before pubs close at 11 p.m. Then heavy drinkers all stumble into the streets at the same time, often leading to fights and other drunken misbehavior. The government says the new laws will help curb the problem because people will drink in a more relaxed manner and leave at different times.

Although establishments can apply for the extended licenses starting Monday, the new hours won't come into effect in England and Wales until its own review. Scotland is conducting its own review of licensing laws.

Cuba bans smoking

HAVANA — Cuba on Monday began an island-wide ban on smoking in public places such as stores, theaters and office buildings.

But some Cubans didn't seem to know, or care, and continued to light up their black tobacco cigarettes in enclosed areas now designated as nonsmoking.

News of the ban was first announced last month, when it was published in Cuba's National Gazette by the Commerce Ministry. The resolution said the move was "taking into account the damage to human health caused by the consumption of cigarettes and cigars, with the objective of contributing to a change in the attitudes of our population."

From The Associated Press

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Kuwait blocks access to some Islamic Web sites

The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwait is blocking Islamic Web sites that incite violence as part of its all-out war on terror following recent clashes with fundamentalists who allegedly planned to attack Americans and the country's security forces, a senior official said Monday.

Kuwait began to block the sites Sunday. Three Kuwaiti sites are now inaccessible, and technicians are working with security officials and Internet providers to crack down on non-Kuwaiti sites, said Hamed Khaja, undersecretary of the Communications Ministry.

He declined to name any of the sites.

"A few weeks ago, we started to make a list of these sites, and yesterday we began to actually block them," Khaja said.

IN THE STATES

Bush sends Congress \$2.571 spending plan

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush sent Congress a \$2.57 trillion budget plan today that would boost spending on the military and homeland security but seeks spending cuts across a wide swath of other government programs. Bush's budget would reduce subsidies paid to farmers, cut health payments for poor people and veterans and trim spending on the environment and education.

"It is a budget that sets priorities," Bush said after a meeting with his Cabinet. "It's a budget that reduces and eliminates redundancy. It's a budget that's a lean budget."

Bush acknowledged that it would be difficult to eliminate popular programs but he said programs must prove their worth. "I look forward to explaining to the American people why we made some of the requests that we made in our budget," the president told reporters.

The budget — the most austere of Bush's presidency — would eliminate or vastly scale back 150 government programs. It will spark months of contentious debate in Congress, where lawmakers will fight to protect their favored programs.

House Democratic Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California called Bush's budget "a hoax on the American people. The two issues that dominated the president's State

of the Union address — Iraq and Social Security — are nowhere to be found in this budget."

Bush's budget does not reflect the costs for his No. 1 domestic priority, overhauling Social Security by allowing younger workers to set up private investment accounts. Aides said since the plan is still being developed, accurate cost estimates could not be made.

The spending document projects that the deficit will hit a record \$427 billion this year, the third straight year that the red ink in dollar terms has set a record. Bush projects that the deficit will fall to \$390 billion in 2006 and gradually decline to \$233 billion in 2009 and \$207 billion in 2010.

Bush's 2005 spending plan, for the budget year that begins next Oct. 1, counts on a healthy economy to boost revenues by 6.1 percent to \$2.18 trillion. Spending, meanwhile, would grow by 3.5 percent to \$2.57 trillion.

Democrats complained that Bush was resorting to draconian cuts that would hurt the needy in order to protect his first tax cuts that primarily benefited the wealthy.

"This budget is part of the Republican plan to cut Social Security benefits while handing out lavish tax breaks for multimillionaires," said Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "Its cuts in veterans programs, health care and education reflect the wrong priorities and its huge deficits are fiscally irresponsible."

U.S. gasoline prices predicted to break records this year

BY BRAD FOSS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gasoline prices rose more than 7 percent in January, which typically is one of the slowest driving months of the year. That's leading experts to predict pump prices may surge past last year's record highs when highway travel picks up late in the spring.

Government figures show that the average price of regular unleaded has risen in each of the last four weeks, jumping from \$1.78 at the start of the year to \$1.91 a gallon in the week ended Jan. 31. That's more than 30 cents a gallon higher than a year earlier.

er.

Prices are highest on the West Coast, averaging \$1.99 a gallon and lowest in the Rocky Mountain region, averaging \$1.83 a gallon.

Last year, the average price peaked above \$2 a gallon in May, just before Memorial Day, which is the unofficial start of the summer driving season. To be just a dime short of that level in early February is not good news for motorists, analysts said.

Carl Larry, head of energy futures at Barclays Capital in New York, said he expects retail gasoline prices to rise above last year's peak due to rising demand for fuel and the higher price of

crude oil, from which gasoline is refined.

"We're starting to see the economy come back, so demand can only go higher from where it's at," Larry said.

Over the past four weeks, nationwide demand for gasoline is up more than 1 percent at 8.8 million barrels, according to the latest U.S. government data.

Larry said gasoline prices would be propelled higher this spring by fears about the nation's growing dependence on imports and the possibility of supply-chain snags as refiners temporarily shut down, or turn around operations in order to shift production from winter-grade fuel to

cleaner-burning summer blends.

"All these things fall into place," he said.

Another indicator of the strength of the U.S. gasoline market: the nation's largest independent refiner, Valero Energy Corp. of San Antonio, has seen its stock price more than double in the past year.

Tom Kloza, director of Oil Price Information Service in Lakewood, N.J., said he anticipates the price of gasoline to "rocket higher in the next 90 days." Nationally, Kloza predicts average gasoline prices could surge \$2.15 and even run as high as \$2.50. That said, he expects those highs to be short-lived.



A truck is gassed up Sunday in Dallas. Experts predict record-breaking pump prices this year.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Dollar buys	\$1.3193
Euro buys	€0.7586
British pound buys	£0.5132
Japanese yen (Feb. 8)	100.20
South Korean won (Feb. 8)	1,092.90
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37699
Bangladesh (Taka)	8.365
Canada (Dollar)	0.6433
Denmark (Krone)	1.2463
Euro (Euro)	0.6937
Europe	\$1.2678/€1.7762
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.986
Hungary (Forint)	135.95
Iceland (Krona)	61.68
Iraq (Shekel)	1,342
Japan (Yen)	104.03
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2915
Norway (Krone)	6.59
Singapore (Dollar)	1.343
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.458
Switzerland (Franc)	1.03530
South Korea (Won)	1,092.90
Sweden (Krona)	8.46
Thailand (Baht)	34.46
United States	1.0000
(Military exchange rates are those used by the U.S. military for its facilities in the country of issuance and for its customers in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.)	
(Commercial exchange rates are interbank rates provided for reference when converting currencies. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$413.90
Silver	\$6.63

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.50
Federal funds market rate	3.25
3-month bill	2.47
30-year bond	4.48
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America	

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Home inspection help

MarketWatch

NEW YORK — If you're buying a home, it's important to know the ins and outs of home inspection.

It's an analysis of the home's structural features and systems, such as water, gas and electric. The purpose is to find any structural defects, broken or obsolete systems, damage or wear and tear — before you assume ownership of the house or possession of the apartment.

In fact, nearly every real estate agent will recommend that a home inspection be conducted as part of your purchase contract, says the American Society of Home Inspectors.

In the new book, "1001 Tips for Buying and Selling a Home," author Mark Nash outlines what inspectors look for. Here are the keys for conducting a successful home inspection:

■ Hire an inspector who has a state license for home inspection and is a member of the American Association of Home Inspectors.

■ Understand that an inspector conducts a general survey — he or she may be an expert in some areas, but not in all.

■ If possible, ask to make the tour with the inspector. You can ask him or her any questions you have. The inspector can also point out key features such as the gas- and water-cut-off valves.

■ Learn what the inspector will be examining. Typically, he or she will look at features including fireplaces, foundations, roofs, siding, gutters, porches, chimneys, windows, doors, hot water heaters, pools and interior and exterior walls. The inspector also will look at mechanical systems including the plumbing, heating and air conditioning and electricity.

■ Use the tour to check for things that will tip your needs. For example, when the inspector examines the plumbing, make sure the water pressure is adequate. When he checks the electrical system, ask if the energy flow will be sufficient for your various appliances.

CIA chief Goss making staff changes at the top

BY KATHERINE PFLieger
SHRADER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Monday was Day One of a new era at the Central Intelligence Agency as director Porter Goss, on the job for four months, finally gets his leadership term in place.

The time since Goss' swearing-in has proved rocky for an agency still reeling from its failure to warn of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and its flawed prewar intelligence on Iraq's weapons.

More than a dozen senior officials have left since Goss arrived. The messy details of some internal battles have seeped into the news.

Critics have complained that Goss, a former Republican congressman who served as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, politicized the agency by hiring Republican aides.

Goss' allies say wholesale changes were essential after the intelligence failures of Sept. 11 and Iraq.

"You couldn't expect anybody to have so much leadership in place and improve the operation of the agency," said Sen. Saxby Chambliss, a Georgia Republican

who is a friend of Goss and a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"While it's been very controversial, Porter had to make some change of people, who were good people and individually they were nice people, but the job wasn't getting done," Chambliss said.

Among the new hires, Goss is making 30-year CIA veteran John Krigen the head of the Directorate of Intelligence, the agency's analysis division. That move on Monday means Goss will have in place all the division chiefs he has chosen.

Goss kept one holdover from the seven-year tenure of former CIA Director George Tenet — science and technology director Donald Kerr.

Goss, a CIA operative in the 1960s, got a mandate from President Bush and the Congress to tackle tough intelligence changes.

A counterterrorism official said Goss is collapsing layers of bureaucracy, so that the operatives in the field are closer to the decision-makers at CIA's headquarters.

Changing a risk-averse culture doesn't take a lot of money. It takes a change in senior management," said the official.

OPINION

If Dean gets nod, it's all over but the shouting

BY JONATHAN CHAIT

A few weeks ago, when former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean declared his intention to run for chairman of the Democratic National Committee, news reports had the general tone of "Get this, that crazy scream guy is back and he wants to run the party." [Now, less than] a week before the vote, his victory is a *fait accompli*. How did this happen? Are Democrats suicidally crazy?

Wait. That's too easy. Let me rephrase the question. Why are Democrats suicidally crazy?

The conventional rag against Dean as DNC chairman is essentially the same as the conventional rag against him as presidential candidate a year ago. Namely, he reinforces all the party's weaknesses. Democrats need to appeal to culturally traditional voters in the Midwest and border states who worry about the party's commitment to national security. Dean, with his intense secularism, arrogant style, throngs of high-profile counter-culture supporters and association with the peace movement, is the precise opposite of the image Democrats want to send out.

The conventional rag is completely right. But, in a way, Dean is even less suited to run the DNC than he is to run for president.

The DNC chairman has two main jobs. First, he transmits the party's message — an important role when the party lacks a president and majority leaders in Congress. This job requires one to master the dismal art of "message discipline," boiling down the party's ideas into a few simple phrases and repeating them over and over until they have sunk into the public consciousness.

It's a role for which Dean is particularly ill-suited. During his campaign, remember,

he fashioned himself a straight talker, delighting reporters by repeatedly wandering "off message." On the plus side, he won friends in the media by appearing honest and human. On the negative side, he did himself enormous damage, when, for example, he suggested that he wouldn't prejudice Osama bin Laden until he had been convicted in a court of law.

For presidential candidates, the negatives of "straight talk" usually outweigh the positives. Paul Maslin, Dean's former colleague, wrote in the *Atlantic Monthly* after the campaign fell apart: "Our candidate's erratic judgment, loose tongue, and overall stubbornness wore our spirits down." But at least for a presidential campaign there are some positives in going off message. In a job like party chairman, a loose cannon is nothing but downside.

The second major task of the DNC chairman is to run the party organization. And here, if this is at all possible, Dean looks even worse. Garance Franke-Ruta, who wrote sympathetic Dean pieces in the *American Prospect* during the campaign, spoke with several former Dean staffers. One called the candidate "a horrible manager" and added, "I wouldn't trust him to run a company." Another called his management style "just a disaster."

Dean, remember, raised about \$50 million by positioning himself as the most anti-Bush candidate, but blew through it so fast that he was nearly broke by January. This represents the sort of financial acumen you associate with — clueless, flash-in-the-pen celebrities — ded, the narrator for VH1's "Behind the Music." But the good times and lavish spending couldn't last for M.C. Hammer — not with chairman of major political parties.

So how did Dean manage to trounce all



comers for this position? Dean's supporters see his triumph as the victory of the masses over a tiny Democratic elite desperately trying to cling to power. As one left-liberal blogger gloated: "The fact that Howard Dean will most likely be heading up the Democratic Party is our victory. It is the voice of the grass roots lifted up into the halls of power once owned by the 'aristocracy of consultants.'" That actually has it backward. A recent *Wall Street Journal* poll found that only 27 percent of Democrats approve of Dean.

In the latest issue of the *New Republic*, Ryan Lizza described how Dean had prevailed in a process of third-rate intrigue.

The choosing of the DNC chairman has been dominated by state parties, whose concerns revolve around expanding perks, including a demand for a \$200,000 handout for each state party from the national party. Nobody seemed to pay much attention to the good the party as a whole. Meanwhile, Dean touched those leaders' ideological ergonomic zones, promising to "feed our core constituencies" and not be "Republican-lite."

As the last election showed, the core constituencies are plenty well fed. There just aren't enough of them to win the White House.

Jonathan Chait is a senior editor at *The New Republic*. This column first appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*.

PBS won't air 'Buster,' but it responds to fear factor

BY DEBRA CHASNOFF

This month I experienced *déjà vu*. PBS — the Public Broadcasting Service — decided not to distribute an episode of its cartoon "Postcards From Buster" (in which Buster the animated bunny meets two children whose parents are lesbians. The same day the secretary of education sent PBS a letter demanding that the network not air this show. "Many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in the episode," she wrote.

She also asked PBS to return federal funds used to make the episode.

I thought back to when a documentary I directed, "It's Elementary — Talking About Gay Issues in School," was offered for broadcast through American Public Television. The film shows how and why schools are finding age-appropriate ways to address gay and lesbian issues in education — confronting anti-gay name-calling, helping students to discuss gay-related topics as part of lessons on current events and reading books that have characters with gay parents.

When "It's Elementary" was scheduled to air on public television, PBS received more letters of protest than for any other program in its history. And what was PBS's response? "Robert Conrad, then president of the network." This sounds to me like a program that helps parents do a better job of parenting, and that is the kind of thing that public broadcasting has a right to do.

"It's Elementary" went on to air on more than 300 public television stations around the country. No such courage this month.

Explaining why the network yanked the show, Lea Sloan, vice president of media re-

lations at PBS, said, "We wanted to make sure that parents had an opportunity to introduce this subject to their children in their own time."

What would be Education Secretary Margaret Spellings and the executives at PBS living in? It seems they think that there is one world where all the families and children live and another, separate one where all those people live. Apparently it's up to (straight) parents to decide when to open the borders and let their children have a controlled peek at the other side.

At this point in American history, that position is not only ridiculous, it's insulting and highly irresponsible. Millions of children have a parent, uncle, aunt, cousin, sibling or grandparent who is gay. Thousands of dis-

cated teachers, school administrators and coaches are gays or lesbians. What kind of message are we sending to our youth when we say that their loved ones and trusted mentors aren't safe for children to meet on TV?

Even if we keep Buster the bunny from visiting children whose parents are gay, we can't put the rabbit back in the hat. Gay people and gay issues are part of everyone's world now. Our only choice is whether we give kids the skills and opportunities to treat everyone respectfully, or whether we try to perpetuate a false silence around the real lives of millions of Americans.

There seems to be a fear that if we allow depictions of families on public TV that don't seem "typical" then somehow we are encouraging children to create those kinds

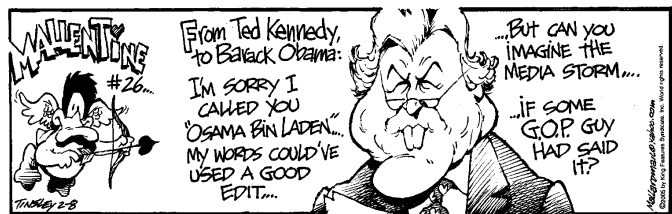
of families instead of the "real" or "legitimate" kind. In fact, when we give young people the opportunity to see that there are all types of family structures, we are helping to lay the foundation for them to understand and respect differences of all kinds, a skill that has never been more needed.

PBS says it seeks to use "the power of non-commercial television ... to enrich the lives of all Americans through quality programs and education services that inform, inspire and delight." All Americans means all kids, regardless of which combination of adults comes together to love and nurture them.

Debra Chasnoff is a filmmaker and winner of a 1991 Academy Award for best documentary short subject. She is director of the Respect for All Project, which works to advance understanding of diversity among young people. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





Quick Trips

Accent on ski bliss

Roccaraso, Italy, earns its popularity

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kathleen Ellison can spell "happiness" with 18 letters.

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh.

That's the sound her skis make swooshing down the mountainside at the Roccaraso, Italy, ski resort, about a three-hour bus ride from the Carney Park recreational outlet outside of Naples.

"These are good slopes. Great slopes," said Ellison, a master at arms who has been skiing since she was about 7 years old. "The worst thing is the amount of people coming down at one time."

Popularity, apparently, has its downside.

Every Saturday during the region's ski season, weather permitting, the Navy Outdoor Recreation sponsors trips to Roccaraso for U.S. military and NATO personnel and their families, generally taking between 100 and 150 people to the resort for day trips from Carney Park. The season usually runs from December through the end of February (into early March, if skiers get lucky).

For a \$10 bus ride, recreation officials accompany winter-weather enthusiasts—skiers, snowboarders and just about anyone looking for a day of play in the white stuff. The trips run from 6 a.m. to about 7 p.m.

The base of the resort, in the province of L'Aquila, in the Abruzzo region of southeast Italy, sits at an altitude of 4,068 feet. It has 24 lifts, including a gondola that offers a spectacular view. Slopes boast a vertical drop of around 3,000 feet, with the highest run topping out at 7,021 feet.

Lessons are available, and usually there are a few instructors who speak English. But on one recent trip, none was present, leaving skiers to either attempt the slopes on their own, hit the café or rely on experienced tour members for pointers.

In the past, however, some Americans have taken the group lessons for 20 euros each or the private lessons for 30 euros, and simply watched and mimicked Italian-speaking instructors' directions, grasping the basics of skiing and snowboarding with no problem, said Naval Outdoor Recreation Sarah Uttech.

One of those was Ursula Tyson, 29, who, without difficulty, snagged and grasped her private snowboarding lessons from a non-English-speaking instructor.

"It wasn't difficult at all," said the first grade teacher at Naples Elementary School. "You watch and repeat. And he spoke enough English to teach what he needed to teach. You know, he could say 'turn' and 'stop.'"

"If it wasn't for the lesson, I'd never be able to do it," said Tyson, who unexpectedly ended most downhill runs on her feet, instead of sitting, she added, laughing.

For some of the Italian skiers, a day on the slopes seemed a veritable fashion show of the latest in skiwear. And some took to the mountain to sunbathe, tanning just their faces, of course, while lounging on comfy lawn chairs rented for the day for 3 euros.

Bar bunnies can also relax at a café shop that serves espresso, cappuccino, alcoholic alfresco.



PHOTOS BY SANDRA JONTZ/Stars and Stripes

Roccaraso, Italy, offers 24 lifts, including a gondola affording a spectacular view.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Kathleen Ellison, left, treats Petty Officer 2nd Class Kim Moselle to a cafe latte at the bar at the Roccaraso ski resort.



Ursula Tyson makes it down the hill standing after learning how to snowboard.

Most U.S. skiers and snowboarders on a recent trip to Roccaraso described the day and slope experiences as "great," "terrific" and "awesome." Some added in an "ouch" or two, but with smiles.

But Petty Officer 2nd Class Tamika Williams chalked up her day of first-time-ever skiing as a "horrible experience."

She and her pal-instructor, Petty Officer 2nd Class Donna Oved, were separated and Williams faced making it down the mountain on her own.

"I fell down and it took me 20 minutes to get back up," said the exasperated 22-year-old information technologist. "Finally, I was just happy to fall. I was just happy to stop."

Will there be a next time?

"Heck yeah, I'm coming back," Williams said. "I'm not a quitter."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.esr.pent.mil



Moselle, left, gets pointers from Ellison.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

On the QT

Directions

From Grigignano, take autostrada A-1 north toward Rome and get off at the Caianello exit. A sign just before the exit points toward Roccaraso; follow the two-lane road all the way there, passing through the towns of Venafro and Castel di Sangro. It is about a 2½-hour drive from Grigignano. After arriving in Roccaraso, to reach the downhill area, follow signs to Aremogna, 10 minutes north of town. To reach the cross-country area, drive about one-quarter mile past the downhill skiing area to La Baita.

Times

Lifts operate 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The season usually runs from December through the end of February, but can extend into March.

Costs

A weekend ski pass costs 27.50 euros, (about \$37.70); a weekday pass is 23.50 euros. Transportation on the Morale, Welfare and Recreation/Navy Outdoor Recreation bus is \$10; ski rental from MWR is \$15 for adults, \$12 for children 12 and younger.

Food

Near the lifts on the lower level, a bar sells sandwiches, pizza, coffee and hot chocolate. A restaurant is on the upper level. A nearby hotel has a restaurant.

Information

Call Navy Outdoor Recreation Center at (+39) 081-526-1579. For ski conditions or assistance, call the Aremogna ski lift main office and ski patrol at 0864-62336.

— SANDRA JONTZ



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelex: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower to mid 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid 40s to lower 50s. Wednesday lows in the lower 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy with dense fog overnight. Highs in the mid 20s to lower 30s. Wednesday lows in the single digits to mid teens.

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s to lower 50s. Wednesday lows in the mid 30s.

Northern Germany: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 30s to lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower to upper 20s.

Southern Germany: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Wednesday lows in the upper teens to upper 20s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 30s. Wednesday lows in the lower 20s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s. Wednesday lows in the lower 20s.

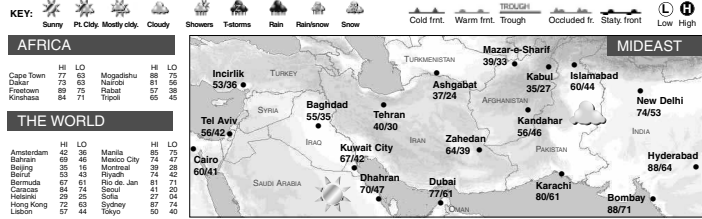
Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the lower to upper 50s. Wednesday lows in the mid 30s to lower 40s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy with dense fog overnight. Highs in the mid to upper 20s. Wednesday lows in the single digits.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the lower 30s to lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower to upper 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower to upper 50s. Wednesday lows in the lower 20s inland, and upper 30s to mid 40s in the coastal regions.

Turkey: Partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 20s inland, and lower 40s to lower 50s in the coastal regions. Wednesday lows in the mid teens inland, and lower to mid 30s in the coastal regions.



For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <https://ows.sembach.af.mil> <http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON



TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Albany, Tex.	62	31	Pdly	Cleveland	43	34	Rain	Hamburg	48	36	Rain	Nashville	59	42	Cdly	San Angelo	63	42	Pdly
Albany, Tex.	62	31	Pdly	Colorado Springs	43	34	Pdly	Hartford	50	37	Cdly	New Orleans	72	64	Cdly	San Antonio	68	50	Cdly
Albany,N.Y.	42	33	Cdly	Columbia, S.C.	69	50	Cdly	Houston	81	61	Pdly	New York City	50	39	Cdly	San Diego	69	50	Pdly
Albany,N.Y.	42	33	Cdly	Columbus, Ga.	69	50	Cdly	Indianapolis	52	37	Cdly	Newark	51	38	Cdly	San Francisco	62	40	Pdly
Albany,N.Y.	42	33	Cdly	Columbus, Ohio	69	50	Cdly	Jacksonville	71	59	Cdly	New York City	50	39	Cdly	Seattle	47	37	Cdly
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Albany,N.Y.	42	33	Cdly	Columbus, Ohio	69	50	Cdly	Los Angeles	68	51	Cdly	New York City	50						

Gators are phony

AL HUNTSVILLE — Alligator heads are popping up in the pond at the University of Alabama at Huntsville, but don't worry.

Officials say it's just ducky.

The life-size, urethane-foam alligator heads were being put in the pond to scare away ducks and geese so the growing bird population will not become a health hazard.

The "Gator Guard" from Bird-X Inc. costs \$69 and has reflective orange-yellow eyes that resemble one of the birds' natural predators.

"Our fear is that we'll put them out there and the ducks will figure out they're not a threat," said Marcia Green, director of the UAH office of environmental health and safety.

Good deed gone bad

CO DURANGO — Two teenage girls who surprised their neighbors with homemade cookies late one night were ordered to pay nearly \$900 in medication bills for a woman who says she was so startled that she had to go to the hospital.

Taylor Ostergaard, 17, and Lindsey Jo Zellitti, 18, baked the chocolate chip and sugar cookies one night last July. They made packages with a half-dozen cookies each and added large red or pink construction-paper hearts that carried the message, "Have a great night!" and were signed with their first initials, "Love, The T and L Club."

Wanda Renea Young, 49, said she was at her rural home south of Durango around 10:30 p.m. when she said she saw "shadowy figures" outside the house hanging repeatedly on her door. She yelled, "Who's there?" but no one answered, and the figures ran away.

Frightened, she spent the night at her sister's home, then went to the hospital the next morning because she was still shaking and had an upset stomach.

ID theft charges

VT BURLINGTON — A woman accused of using the Internet to make it appear that she was being harassed has pleaded not guilty to a felony charge of identity theft.

Police officials said Bess Carney, 27, created an e-mail address with a former co-worker's name to send harassing e-mails to herself. She is accused of then forwarding those messages to friends in an attempt to portray the former co-worker, Jeanne Landau, as unstable, according to documents filed in Vermont District Court in Burlington.

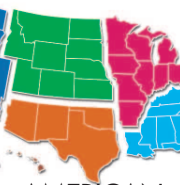
Police said Landau had recently begun dating one of Carney's friends.

Carney also was charged with misdemeanors of making false reports to law enforcement and unauthorized access to a computer.

Each misdemeanor carries a maximum punishment of six months in prison and a \$500 fine. The felony charge could lead to as long as three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Bomb threats continue

GA AUGUSTA — Bomb threats at Glenn Hills Middle School have become so common that some students bring foot-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

balls and playing cards to pass the time during evacuations, police say. More than a dozen threats since the school year began, including seven the week of Jan. 10, have led to three arrests, but the calls continue. Police say the callers sound young and use tricks to evade caller ID.

Education assistance

PA HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and Gov. Ed Rendell announced that PHEAA will add \$45 million to its need-based college grant program and create a \$10 million grant program for working adults who want to return to school. Earnings from the agency's student-loan programs will fund the expansion.

Windy City tainted

IL CHICAGO — Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley said a series of contracting and police scandals had hurt the city's reputation and brought in a team of managers to help crack down on fraud.

Chicago has a long history of corruption and scandals, but the past few months have been especially bad, with campaign donors, contractors, former city workers and police officers facing federal corruption charges in separate investigations.

"I am concerned that our city's integrity has been harmed, our reputation tarnished," Daley said. "I know that some people think this is just business as usual. That is a very cynical view of government."



In the buckets

Four trucks from Rochester Gas & Electric work on power lines along a road in Canandaigua, N.Y.

It is something I do not accept."

Daley appointed Mary Dempsey, the commissioner of the Chicago Public Library system, to spend six months cleaning out fraud in programs in which city contracts are set aside for companies that are owned and operated by women and minorities. He appointed two former federal prosecutors to work with her.

He also announced that from now on, the city would insist on more information about contractors who seek minority and female set-aside contracts to be sure they "are who they say they are and are doing the work they're paid to do."

Confession to cheating

CO GYPSUM — A high school graduate has confessed to cheating on an English literature test — 47 years ago.

Eagle Valley High School Principal Mark Strakbein said he got a one-page, handwritten letter from a 65-year-old grandmother of five who admitted she and a friend stole the answers to a Shakespeare test in the fall of 1957.

"I know it makes no difference now (after 47 years), except maybe this will keep some student from cheating and help them to be honest — conscience never lets you forget — there is forgiveness with God, and I have that, but I felt I still needed to confess to the school."

Strakbein didn't release the woman's name but said he confirmed she graduated in 1958 from Eagle Valley High.

Strakbein said he read the letter aloud to every homeroom class as a lesson in following your conscience.

Chicago could have heard a pin drop," he said.

Poisonous food chain

CA SIMI VALLEY — The National Park Service says tests showed two mountain lions found in December died of anticoagulant poisoning from the active ingredients in household rat and mice poisons. Officials suspect the lions were poisoned by eating coyotes that had eaten poisonous rats or mice.

Child abuse sentencing

TX HOUSTON — Jurors began considering how a Houston man convicted of the aggravated sexual assault of a 6-week-old baby should be punished.

Keith Samuel Cook was found guilty by a Harris County grand jury of the Feb. 20, 2003, assault. He faces a sentence ranging from probation to life in prison.

When the two-day trial began, Assistant District Attorney Murray Newman told jurors it was one of the most disturbing he's seen.

The child's mother, Eugenia White, 28, has been charged with failure to report child abuse. She had been dating Cook for about six months and prosecutors say she claimed she had accidentally scratched the baby while changing a diaper.

A day after the assault, the infant was taken to a medical center, which rushed her to a children's hospital for surgery.

When doctors and social workers questioned White's story, she blamed Cook.



Bull run Dwayne Hargo competes in a bull-riding event during the Los Fresnos PRCA Rodeo, held in conjunction with the 16th annual Cameron County Fair and Livestock Show in Los Fresnos, Texas. The PRCA is the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.



Bad slide Jason Moore tumbles down a sledding hill after he flipped off of his sled during the 68th Annual Laskiniani Festival in Palo, Minn. Despite the spill, Moore was unhurt and climbed back up for another run down the hill.



New England surfing rules A surfer rides turbulent Atlantic Ocean waves near Jenness Beach in Rye, N.H., during sundown.



Boarding in the sun

Shelden Waterman practices a jump on his snowboard during the Snowflari event in Ulica, N.Y.



Building blocks

Robbi Fryer, 7, contemplates how high can a tower of Legos go before it topples over as she participates in a construction competition called the Block Kids Building Program in Maple Heights, Ohio.



Lone ranger

Brenda Harris, with the Bexar County Palamino Patrol Drill Team, carries the American flag prior to the matinee performance of the San Antonio Rodeo at the SBC Center in San Antonio.



Beady eyes

Riders in the Krewe of Iris float throw beads to a crowd in New Orleans. Mardi Gras parades and activities are to continue through Fat Tuesday.

Outlaw freed

ID BOISE — Idaho's most infamous outlaw, Claude Dallas, was released from prison after serving 22 years for the execution-style slayings of two state officers in 1981.

Dallas, 54, gained notoriety as a callous criminal and a modern-day mountain man at odds with the government. He was released after his 30-year term was cut by eight years for good behavior.

He was convicted of manslaughter in 1982 for the shooting deaths of Conley Elms and Bill Pogue, officers for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game who were investigating reports of bobcat poaching by Dallas in remote southeast Idaho.

Pogue, who had drawn his own weapon, was hit first with a shot from Dallas' handgun. Dallas then shot Elms two times in the chest before using a rifle to fire one round into each man's head.

The case made national headlines and turned Dallas into an anti-government folk hero for some — a reputation only heightened by a 1986 jailbreak. Dallas hid for nearly a year before he was caught and sent back to prison. He was charged in the escape, but acquitted by a jury after he testified he had to break out because prison guards threatened his life.

Officer resigns

NI FLEMINGTONA — Police officer accused of helping cover up a fatal shooting at the home of former NBA star Jayson Williams entered a program for first-time offenders. Bridgewater Officer Eric Allen, 30, agreed to resign from the department and never work again in law enforcement. He was charged with official misconduct and witness tampering.

Tree disease concerns

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Conditions exist for a Dutch elm emergency in Minneapolis, with high potential for losing more of the leafy urban canopy, officials said.

The cause for concern: Last year, for the first time since the 1970s, Minneapolis saw a near-tripling of public trees afflicted with Dutch elm disease. In an average year, the city targets 1,500 trees on public land for elimination because of the disease, which is caused by a fungus spread by a beetle. Last year the number hit 4,500, said Commissioner John Erwin of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

In all, the city ordered the destruction of 9,914 elms, the third most in a year, behind 1977 and 1978. In 2003 the city ordered fewer than 4,000 destroyed.

"We had such a dramatic boom that we fear for the whole city," Erwin said. "We are doing nothing but cutting down trees, and we can't keep up."

Another bright idea

WV HUNTINGTON — A team of inventors has a bright idea — a better light bulb.

To demonstrate the durability of a new kind of light bulb, Richard Begley tossed one on the ground and dipped another one under water.

"Would you do that with a regular bulb?" the Marshall University

researcher asked.

The U.S. Patent and Trade office recently granted a patent for the solid-state ElectroCerescent lighting technology, which was developed by Begley, an engineering professor; Michael Norton, a chemistry professor; and researchers from Alfred University College of Ceramics in New York and Lewisburg-based Meadow River Enterprises Inc.

The inventors are now entertaining contract offers for commercial applications for the ceramic-on-steel lights, which they say could lead to hundreds of new jobs in West Virginia.

A square foot of the new light panels consumes one-quarter of a watt or power, said Don Osborne, president of Meadow River Enterprises.

Researchers estimate the bulbs can emit their soft greenish light for 50,000 hours — or more than five years — without much maintenance.

Polygamist wants appeal

UT SALT LAKE CITY — Rodney Holm, a former police officer convicted of bigamy and illegal sex with an underage girl, appealed his case to the state Supreme Court. Holm's attorney argued that polygamy is a constitutional right. Holm was found guilty in August 2003 and sentenced to a year in jail. His conviction stemmed from his union with his third wife, who was 16 at the time.

Development near gorge

WV CHARLESTON — A developer wants to build as many as 2,200 homes along a 10-mile stretch of the rim of the scenic New River Gorge, drawing protests from National Park Service officials.

The proposed Roaring River development would cover 4,300 acres on the west side of the deep gorge, northeast of the city of Beckley.

Developers plan homes ranging from small cabins to 3,000-square-foot "mountain estates."

Park service officials are concerned because a 613-acre section of the proposed development is on private land within the official boundary of the New River Gorge National River.

Governor knocks \$20M

MO JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Matt Blunt, a strong supporter of tort reform, is calling a \$20 million judgment against Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. an "egregious" example of high payoffs in lawsuits. A Jackson County jury awarded the punitive damages to the family of a deceased smoker. Blunt says such awards are hurting Missouri's business climate.

Gambling on casinos

KS TOPEKA — Gambling lobbyists put forward a new proposal for state-owned casinos. Doug Lawrence, a lobbyist for the Kansas Greyhound Association, told the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee the package could provide the state with as much as \$150 million for education, while tapping into a lucrative tourism industry in the fiscal year starting July 1.

Stories and photos from news wires

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-VIDEO)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley	Movie "Her Hidden Truth" (1995, Drama) Kelly Martin. A young woman must prove she is innocent of an onerous death.	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Arma Football Sports to Be Announced. (Taped)	30 Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sawgs-Siamess Cat		Headline News	Arma Newswatch		Sweet Dreams	Headline News
10:00	Arthur "O.W.'s Name Game"	(8-46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNNews	Harbald With Chris Matthews		Best For Less	ESPNNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)	(3-35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	Shanklin's Memoirs		SNIPPED	Pacific Report
11:00	Sawgs-Siamess Cat	(16-48) Movie *** "The Saint" (1997, Adventure) Val Kilmer. A master of disguise finds romance and danger in England.	(17) General Hospital	The O'Reilly Factor		E News	Special's "Memoria"
11:30	Stanley	Headline News	Movie *** "Love & Basketball" (2000) Santa Luthra. A passion for the game leads to love for two best friends.	Fox and Friends First	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	Movie *** "Something's Gotta Give" (2003) Jack Nicholson. A music exec falls for the mother of his young girlfriend.
12:00	Dora the Explorer	Headline News	(15) Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	Motorcycle Racing 'THO AMA World Supercross Grand Prix	Charm'd "Magic Hour"	(15) Pacific Report
12:30	The Wiggles	Jeopardy!	(46) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	American Morning	SportsCenter	Any Day Now Rene and Bill decide to buy a house together!	(46) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
13:00	Bob the Builder	Headline News	(45) The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	OWN Live Today	NFL Total Access	Hard Watch "Four Days"	(45) The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)	Dr. Phil	(45) Dennis Miller	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	Law & Order "High & Low"	(45) Dennis Miller
14:00	Blue's Clues Codi	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	The Simpsons	(45) Headline News
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
15:00	Famished Home Videos	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
15:30	Full House	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
16:00	Pokémon	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
16:30	Yo-Gi-O!	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
17:00	Doug "Doug's Older Woman"	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
18:30	Rugrats	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
19:00	The Proud Family	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
19:30	The Amanda Show	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
20:00	Everwood "Home"	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
20:30		Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
21:00	Sister, Sister	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
21:30	Sister, Sister	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
22:30	Home Improvement	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Heart"	Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News
23:30		Headline News	(45) Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	(45) Headline News

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2005

00:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters	(11:00) Movie *** "Robin Hood: Men in Tights" (1993)	Life Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Life Night With Conan	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rock Power	(12:47) Movie *** "Wake Island" (1942, Drama) Brian Donlevy, Robert Preston.	(35) Headline News	Star in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News	SportsCenter	Star Trek: Enterprise "Harbinger"	Star in the Big Blue House
1:00	The Fairly OddParents		College Basketball Boston College at Notre Dame. (Live)	Bruce's Clue (E)	AFC World News Tonight	College Basketball Illinois at Michigan. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise "Harbinger"	Bruce's Clue (E)
1:30	Rugrats		Wheel of Fortune	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	Wheel of Fortune
2:00	The Proud Family		Dr. Phil	NBC Nightly News	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Inside the Box"	Dr. Phil
2:30	The Amanda Show		NBC Nightly News	Headline News	Harmony & Colmes	College Basketball Florida at Kentucky. (Live)	Jackie Robinson: A Life Story	Oprah Winfrey
3:00	Everwood "Home"		Judge Judy	Nightly Business Report			Friends	NBC Nightly News
3:30	Sister, Sister		Headline News	Access Hollywood	Joe Dobbs Tonight	SportsCenter	Seinfeld "The Opposite"	Judge Judy
4:00	Sister, Sister		Headline News	(35) Guiding Light	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Breathin' Space Yoga	Access Hollywood
5:00	Sesame Street (E)	(11:00) Movie *** "Mary Kelly" (1996, Horror) Julia Roberts. Dr. Jeckyl's maid is drawn to the doctor's evil alter ego.	Headline News	(13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
5:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
6:00	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
6:30	Blue's Clues		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
7:00	Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
7:30	Bob the Builder		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
8:00	The Wiggles		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
8:30	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
9:00	Stanley "O'Clock Talk"		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
9:30	Sawgs-Siamess Cat		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
10:00	Arthur (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
11:00	Sawgs-Siamess Cat		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
11:30	Stanley "Frog Legs"		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
12:30	Bob the Builder		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
13:00	Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
14:00	Blue's Clues		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
15:00	Famished Home Videos		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
15:30	Full House		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
16:00	Booker		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
16:30	Doug Doug has an accident.		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
17:00	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
18:00	The Fairly OddParents		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
18:30	Rugrats		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
19:00	Even Stevens		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
19:30	Kenan & Kel "The Crush"		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
20:00	Gilmore Girls Lorelei's father visits.		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
20:30	Degrassi: Next		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
21:00	Degrassi: Next		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
22:00	The Cosby Show		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
22:30	Home Improvement		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
23:00	Touched by an Angel "God-speed"		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
23:30			Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NBA Basketball Nets at Boston Celtics. (Live)	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital

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McCartney refutes reports

Stung by media sniping at his wife, Paul McCartney wants to set the record straight. She doesn't make decisions for him, didn't tell him to dye his graying hair, and gets along just fine with his kids.

The former Beatle posted a message Friday on **Heath-Mills McCartney's** official Web site, rebutting some of the "scurrilous reports" about the model-turned-anti-landmine-campaigner he married in 2002.

"Some of the stuff that is written is plain malevolence but some of it is so ridiculous that I have to admit it's funny," wrote the musician, who headlined the Super Bowl halftime show on Sunday.

Britain's tabloid press has reported animosity between Mills McCartney, 37, and the musician's children from his marriage to Linda McCartney, who died of cancer in 1998.

But McCartney said his adult children "get on great" with their stepmother. He and Mills McCartney have a 1-year-old daughter, Beatrice.

N. Korea wants ban on 'Team America'

North Korea's embassy in Prague has demanded that the film "Team America: World Police" be banned in the Czech Republic, saying the movie harms their country's reputation, a report said Saturday.

In the film by "South Park" creators **Trey Parker** and **Matt Stone**, a team of marionettes rushes to keep North Korean leader **Kim Jong Il** from destroying the world, reducing world capitals to rubble along the way.

"It harms the image of our country," the **Lidove Noviny** daily quoted a North Korean diplomat as saying. "Such behavior is not part of our country's political culture. Therefore, we want the film to be banned."

The Czech Foreign Ministry said the film would not be banned in the Czech Republic.

"We did not think it was an unrealistic wish," ministry spokesman **Vit Kolar** was quoted as saying. "Obviously, it's absurd to demand that in a democratic country."

Freeman picks sweet home Mississippi

Morgan Freeman has an easy answer when people ask why he chose to live in Mississippi: "I'm a major, internationally famous motion picture star. I can live where I want to."

Freeman, who has appeared in more than 50 films and has been nominated for four Academy Awards, grew up in Mississippi but left the area in 1955.

"I had no plans to come back here," Freeman said this past week as he was added to the Leflore County Hall of Fame. "I was just going to keep going."

But he was drawn back by his parents and returned to live in Charleston in 1992. When he returned, he remembered why the place felt right.

"All my life, I felt nurtured because I was here," he said.

"I was raised by a whole village, and I feel blessed for that."

Actor says goodbye to 'JAG'

David James Elliott is ending his "JAG" service after a decade.

Elliott, who plays military attorney Cmdr. Harmon "Harm" Rabb Jr., will leave the CBS series when it concludes its 10th season in May, the network said Friday.

With his "JAG" deal ending this year, Elliott signed a series development deal with ABC and Touchstone Television.

Like the Navy drama, which first aired on NBC and moved to CBS in its second year, will return for the 2005-06 season was uncertain.

"JAG" creator **Dan Liss** is introducing a new character who could fill the void left by Elliott: **Chris Beem**, formerly of "As the World Turns," joins the cast this month as a new JAG team member.

The series, which airs Friday, co-stars **Catherine Bell**, **Patrick Labyorteaux**, **Scott Lawrence** and **Zoe McLellan**.

Stories and photos from the Associated Press

Rock on

Comedian rolls into Oscar gig

BY BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

Chris Rock's eyes darted around the room, studying the chattering group of international print journalists.

He licked his lips, clasped his hands ... and only dropped one F-bomb as they questioned him in a variety of accents.

"I'm never proper or careful, but I never curse in front of my mother, either," Rock told the writers. So he's not worried about getting beeped on worldwide TV when he hosts the Feb. 27 Oscar ceremony.

"I don't think people are nervous," Rock said later during an interview with The Associated Press. "I just came off tour in America, a million people came to see me. They weren't nervous."

Shooting a glance at Oscar show producer **Gil Cates**, he asked, "Are you, Gil?"

Cates didn't flinch.

Neither has the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, although having the acerbic Rock as host is certainly a change of pace. The academy is known for its sedate style and the predominantly older, white membership that fills the Oscar night audience.

Rock mimicked the typical question he gets these days: "Oh, a black comic, how are you going to make it white?"

"I'm like, 'Dude, look around, can you get any whiter?'"

He honed his off-the-cuff style during a three-year run on "Saturday Night Live," plus the club circuit and hit HBO specials.

"How do I say this without sounding like an egomaniac?" he said. "I don't know a comedian that sells more seats than me in the red states and blue states, so I don't see where I have to change that much."

At least some of Rock's cockiness stems from the positive response he received during his recent "Black Ambition" tour.

"When I'm in West Palm Beach, Fla., there are old Jewish people at the show," he said. "When I'm in New Mexico, it's Mexicans."

"Wherever I'm at, the people show up."

Hip-hopping into the traditional footsteps of show cosmoes as **Billy Crystal** and the late **Johnny Carson** appealed to Rock, although he revealed he turned down the chance to host the Oscar cast several times before, believing it was "an old man's gig."

But he's 39 now, and it feels right.

"I like the tradition of the Oscars," he said. "I like that some of the greatest comedians ever have hosted the show."

How did Cates choose Rock as host? "Billy is doing a show in New York," he said, "Steve Martin is doing a movie —" Rock cut him off. "Ellen DeGeneres has crabs. Jay Leno's got a gig. They go to the R's. But Reynolds said no."

Creating an immediate buzz on Oscar night is Rock's No. 1 challenge.

"A great monologue does it," he said. "The secret to hosting awards shows is like sports — get a big lead and run out



Comedian and actor **Chris Rock** speaks with journalists about hosting the 77th Annual Academy Awards on Jan. 21 during a news conference in Burbank, Calif. Having the acerbic Rock as host is a change of pace for the academy, known for its sedate style.

the clock.

"Then kind of hand off the ball and assist the show." As a kid in Brooklyn, N.Y., Rock tuned in the Oscar show for the host's monologue, then tuned out.

"Any black people nominated? No, oh, back to bed," he said.

Not the case this year. **Jamie Foxx** is a best actor nominee for "Ray" and a supporting actor nominee for "Collateral" — two of this year's record five acting nominations for black performers.

"If he doesn't win, I will steal the sound editing Oscar," Rock declared.

Cates reminded him that award usually has multiple winners.

"They're all punks," Rock shot back. Rock isn't a member of the academy, despite acting in "H. Street," "Bad Company," "New Jack City," "I'm Gonna Git You Sucka!" and, of course, "Poetic Tang."

Why not? "If you're darker than a paper bag, you can't get in," he said.

Working a live audience is Rock's forte, a good thing since the Oscars are broadcast in real time around the world. ABC has not yet decided whether there will be a delay on the broadcast to protect against profanities, as there was in last year's post-Janet Jackson crackdown.

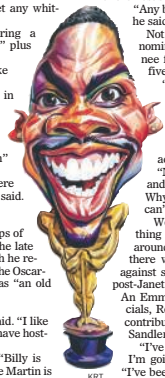
An Emmy-winning writer himself for his cable specials, Rock hired his own writing staff, and expects contributions from famous pals **David Spade**, **Adam Sandler** and **Eddie Murphy**.

"I've been kissing [expletive] for years and now I'm going to reap the rewards," he said, cackling.

"I've been paying for a lot of dinners and now I want jokes, damn it!"

How will Rock know if he's killing the Kodak Theatre audience on Oscar night? "I'll probably pay more attention to the musicians in the pit than the stars because they're the closest you're going to get to normal people in the audience," he said.

"If I can get them laughing, I know I got the whole world laughing."



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Poutiainen ready to take on worlds

BY ANDREW DAMPF
The Associated Press

SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy — The Alpine World Championships are halfway done, and the season's top female skier is just arriving.

Tanja Poutiainen of Finland leads the overall World Cup standings on the strength of results in the giant slalom and slalom.

In fact, Poutiainen didn't even bother entering the speed races that opened the championships, choosing instead to train in nearby Switzerland for her first race, Tuesday's giant slalom.

While she has won only one giant slalom this season, Poutiainen nonetheless leads the World Cup standings in that discipline by virtue of consistency, with no finish lower than seventh.

Last month, on the course being used for the worlds, Poutiainen finished sixth in a World Cup giant slalom. That race was by Slovenia's Tina Maze, the most exciting giant slalom racer this season with three victories in six World Cup races. She's also been inconsistent, finishing outside the top 10 in the other three races.

While Poutiainen and Maze are seeking a breakthrough in a major event, Sweden's Anja Paerson enters as the defending giant slalom world champion and new super giant slalom gold medalist, having won the opening race of this meet.

"It's a hilly slope that reminds me about St. Moritz," Paerson said, referring to the Swiss resort where she won the GS gold in 2003.

Paerson has not won a giant slalom since the World Cup opener in Sölden, Austria, in October, although she maintains this is her best event.

Paerson's top rival among all-around skiers, Jani-



Finland's Tanja Poutiainen leads the overall World Cup standings due almost entirely to her results in the technical disciplines of giant slalom and slalom.

ca Kostelic, could also challenge. The Croat already has won the combined and downhill in these worlds.

"I've got two medals. I'm just going to enjoy it and not think about medals," said Kostelic, whose status for the race was questionable Monday night because of a cold and fever.

Kostelic was the 2002 Olympic giant slalom champion but has never won a World Cup or world championship race in the discipline.

Another favorite is Austria's Martin Schell, a slalom specialist until this season who won the World Cup giant slalom in St. Moritz in December.

Italy's Karen Putzer won three giant slaloms in 2002-03 and only now is regaining her form after a series of injuries. She finished second to Maze in the Jan. 22 World Cup giant slalom before the worlds on Jan. 22.

Spain's Maria Jose Rienda Contreras, fifth in the World Cup giant slalom standings, also has a chance for a medal, as do Canadians Genevieve Simard and Allison Forsyth.

Agassi is returning to Davis Cup team

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Andre Agassi will return to the U.S. Davis Cup team after a five-year absence, The Associated Press learned Monday.

The U.S. Tennis Association planned to announce Monday that Agassi will join the squad for its first-round match against Croatia on March 4-6 at Carson, Calif., a tennis source told the AP on condition of anonymity.

The eight-time Grand Slam tournament champion, who turns 35 in April, stopped playing Davis Cup after 2000 as part of a scaled-back schedule geared to peaking for the majors.

He was a member of three Davis Cup championship teams, going 30-5 in singles. Current U.S. captain Patrick McEnroe traveled to Agassi's hometown of Las Vegas after the Australian Open to meet for dinner and try to persuade him to return to the team.

"Some of my greatest memories are playing Davis Cup," Agassi said last week in a conference call. "The regrets I have about not playing are regrets I've had for the last few years, and it still remain that way, which is being a part of a new generation and trying to win the Davis Cup again."

The United States has won the competition a record 31 times, but not since 1995 — the team's longest drought since the gap between titles in 1926 and 1937. The Americans lost to Spain in last year's Davis Cup final.

"At this time, we're not prepared to make any announcement regarding the USA vs. Croatia Davis Cup first round," USTA spokesman Randy Walker said Monday. "We'll certainly inform

everybody when Patrick is ready to name the team."

Agassi's agent, Perry Rogers, did not immediately return a phone call Monday.

John McEnroe, Patrick's brother and predecessor as captain, cited an inability to get Agassi and Pete Sampras to play Davis Cup regularly as a reason for stepping down after just 14 months as captain of the United States squad.

Bringing Agassi back into the fold would improve the team — and help sell tickets. He was ranked No. 1 as recently as early 2003, is 10th in the world now and is still the sport's most popular male player.

"Having him as part of our team will certainly help our chances, not to mention what it would do for tennis' period," Patrick McEnroe said last week. "It would be a positive thing for the sport and tennis overall in this country in having people see our young guy, Andy Roddick, with a legend."

"It would really take the interest up a notch or two." The captain has said that he wouldn't require or expect Agassi to participate in every round of this year's Davis Cup. Roddick, who finished 2003 ranked No. 1 and won the U.S. Open that season, is entrenched as the top U.S. singles player.

The second singles slot for Davis Cup has been rotating; Mardy Fish filled the role against Spain. Twin brothers Bob and Mike Bryan are the U.S. doubles team.

"I have talked to him. We have discussed it. I've let him know that I'm 100 percent supportive, if he wants to join us. You know, I definitely want him on the team," Roddick said last week.

"Selfishly, I'd love to be around him and learn, be in that close contact with him for a week."

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Keiper Friedel retires from U.S. national team

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Goalkeeper Brad Friedel is retiring from the U.S. national soccer team, leaving Casey Keller as the favorite to be in goal through the 2006 World Cup.

"I would like to spend my time away from my club team with my family," Friedel said in a conference call Monday. "The second reason is based on prolonging my club career, because I have picked up, albeit slight, muscular injuries recently."

"When I was traveling around, I was feeling worn down. I haven't felt worn down in quite some time, and I think a lot of that is attributed to the fact that I'm not flying everywhere and playing in high-level, competitive games."

The 33-year-old Friedel, the

starter for Blackburn in England, beat out Keller for the starting job in the 2002 World Cup, in which the United States advanced to the quarterfinals, its best showing since 1930. He played a huge part in stopping penalties in its victory against South Korea and Poland.

"Certainly his performance in the 2002 World Cup was a huge factor in our success," said U.S. coach Bruce Arena, who twice tried to talk Friedel out of his decision in the past two months or so.

Friedel has played just once for the United States since the World Cup, in an exhibition game in Poland in March.

Friedel, who made his national team debut in 1992, played in the past three World Cups and finishes with 24 shutouts in 82 international appearances. He is voted the top goalkeeper in the Premier League by fellow players at the end of the 2002-2003 season.

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Tuesday

AFN Sports, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Connecticut at Syracuse.

AFN Sports, 3 a.m.—Bowling: PGA Atlanta (d).

AFN Sports and Radio, 4 a.m.—College basketball: Oklahoma at Oklahoma St.

AFN Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Arena Football League teams (TBD).

AFN Sports, 9 p.m.—Pro basketball: New York Knicks at Philadelphia 76ers.

Wednesday

AFN Atlantic, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Boston College at Notre Dame.

AFN Sports, 12:30 p.m.—College basketball: Illinois at Michigan.

AFN Sports, 4 p.m.—Pro football: New England Patriots at New York Jets.

AFN Sports, 9 p.m.—College basketball: Illinois at Michigan (d).

AFN Sports, 9 p.m.—College basketball: The Season Weekly: Wake Forest Basketball (d).

All times are Central European Time. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

College basketball

Sunday

1. Illinois (23-0) beat Indiana 60-47. Next: at Kentucky, Tuesday.

2. North Carolina (19-2) beat Florida State 82-60. Next: at Duke, Tuesday.

3. Kansas (18-5) beat North Carolina at Kansas State, Tuesday.

4. Duke (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 2 Boston College (20-0) did not play. Next: at Notre Dame, Tuesday.

5. Kentucky (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. Florida, Tuesday.

6. Florida State (21-3) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina State, Tuesday.

7. Syracuse (21-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 22 Connecticut, Monday.

8. Louisville (20-3) did not play. Next: vs. Memphis, Wednesday.

9. Texas Tech (17-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Oklahoma, Monday.

10. Alabama (11-4) did not play. Next: at Tennessee, Wednesday.

11. Michigan State (14-0) did not play. Next: vs. Ohio State, Wednesday.

12. Washington (19-1) did not play. Next: at Oregon, Thursday.

13. Arizona (19-4) did not play. Next: at Southern California, Thursday.

14. Baylor (15-4) did not play. Next: at No. 10 Oklahoma State, Monday.

15. Cincinnati (17-4) did not play. Next: at Pepperdine, Thursday.

16. Gonzaga (17-5) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa, Wednesday.

17. Wisconsin (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa, Wednesday.

18. Texas (15-6) did not play. Next: at Colorado, Tuesday.

19. Utah (13-5) did not play. Next: at UNLV, Monday.

20. Maryland (13-7) did not play. Next: vs. Connecticut (14-5) did not play. Next: at Syracuse, Monday.

21. Villanova (13-5) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Joseph's, Monday.

22. Georgia Tech (13-7) did not play. Next: at Clemson, Tuesday.

Sunday's men's scores

1. Brigham Young 61, Maine 69.

2. Carnegie-Mellon 55, Emory 44.

3. Wake Forest 60, Lafayette 61.

4. Ohio State 60, Polytechnic 41.

5. Arkansas 66, Anna Maria 63.

6. Holy Cross 76, American U. 67.

7. Lehigh 57, Bucknell 54.

8. Wake Forest 60, Fairleigh Dickinson 54.

9. North Carolina 68, Case Reserve 50.

10. Thomas More 117, Piedmont 104.

11. DePaul 56, Saint Louis 53.

12. Indiana 60, Indiana 67.

13. Marshall 50, Ball St. 51.

14. Morgan 69, John Carroll 63.

15. Washington 60, Ball 65.

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Mickelson wins FBR with largest margin

BY BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Phil Mickelson had an awful start in the FBR Open. He was 4 over after nine holes, 2 over after 18. Just making the cut seemed a reasonable goal.

What followed was a masterful, dominating performance that gave the Masters champion his first victory of the year, a five-stroke triumph that was the biggest winning margin in his impressive PGA Tour career.

"I thought it was going to be a short week, I'd have the weekend off," Mickelson said, "and the next thing you know I was able to turn things around."

That's an understatement. Mickelson was 19 under over the final 54 holes. The comeback began with an 11-under 60 in the second round, followed by a 65, and capped by a 67 on Sunday. As a finishing touch, he rolled in a 25-foot putt from the fringe on the 18th for a birdie, to the wild cheers of a huge crowd that had showered him with encouragement all week.

"I can't wait for next week," said Mickelson, looking forward to the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. "I can't wait to get back on the golf course. I'm excited about hitting chips, or putts, or tee shots."

Mickelson said he's playing the best golf of his life. That his switch to new golf equipment has added distance to his drives.

Those drives were a bit wild Sunday, when he hit one deep into the desert and another into a pond. But the 24-time PGA Tour winner offset those mistakes with brilliant comeback shots. He turned the desert mishap into a birdie, and salvaged a par out of the water.

Afterward, his daughters,



Phil Mickelson reacts to his birdie putt on the 18th green during the final round of the FBR Open at the Tournament Players Club in Scottsdale, Ariz. Mickelson won the tournament at 17 under par.

5-year-old Amanda and 3-year-old Sophia, rushed to hug their dad on the 18th green.

"Daddy, there's treats after," the youngest one said.

The victory in the \$5.2 million event was worth \$936,000. The best-attended tournament on the PGA Tour drew an estimated 517,000.

Mickelson accomplished his victory in an uncharacteristic

way, tied for the lead after two rounds and up by four shots going into the final day.

"It was a fun week," he said, "because I drove the ball a lot longer than I think I have in years, and was able to have a lot of short irons, too."

With chants of "A-S-U!" and "Go Lefty!" from the crowd everywhere he went, Mickelson finished at 17-under 267 on the Tour-

nameament Players Club course.

Scott McCarron and Kevin Na, the alter, at 21, the youngest player on the PGA Tour, tied at 27. McCarron shot his second consecutive 65, and Na had a 69. Na played in the final group with Mickelson and faltered before rallying with birdies on the 14th and 17th for his best finish in two years on the tour.

Steve Flesch, Tim Herron and

David Toms finished at 273. Toms would have finished in second place but double-bogeyed the 18th.

Mickelson, a three-time NCAA champion at Arizona State who lived in Scottsdale until December 2001, won the FBR — formerly the Phoenix Open — for the second time. He was just 25 when he won in a playoff with Justin Leonard in 1996.

The par-5 13th might have been the clincher for Mickelson. His drive sailed off to the right, into desert terrain amid rocks, small trees and cactus. But the ball landed in a spot where there was an opening, and Mickelson smashed a 5-iron shot some 230 yards over a small tree and just in front of the green. He barely missed from there, then tapped in for a birdie. Na, meanwhile, three-putted for a bogey.

"I was thinking, 'This is my chance. I can make a 65 and swing here if I make eagle and he makes bogey,'" Na said. "It was the other way around."

Then on the par-5 15th, Mickelson drove into the water, but came back to save par.

"I certainly got up and down a lot," he said. "It's nice to have a short game to fall back on if I'm not hitting it the best. I probably didn't strike it nearly as well today as I did the last couple of days, but the score was OK. All I wanted to do was get the 'W' and I did that."

Na, born in South Korea, moved with his family to the United States at age 8. He turned professional at 17, before his senior year in high school, and played a spot on the PGA Tour in the 2003 qualifying tournament. He knew the value gained in playing the final two rounds in the same field as a 144-player field.

"That experience," Na said. "You can't buy that."

Canseco claims in book that he gave McGwire steroids

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jose Canseco says in his upcoming book that he injected Mark McGwire with steroids and introduced several other sluggers to the drugs, the Daily News reported Sunday.

The long-awaited "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids,' Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big," is scheduled for release by Regan Books on Feb. 21. Regan publisher Paul Oleskiw told The Associated Press in an e-mail that the release date could be moved up.

Parent company HarperCollins posted a book description on its Web site that said Canseco "made himself a guinea pig of the performance-enhancing drugs" and added the 1988 AL MVP "mixed, matched and experimented to such a degree that he became known throughout the league as 'The Chemical Boy.'"

The Daily News did not quote from the book and said it was still being edited. The newspaper would not say how it got the information.

Canseco did not respond to an e-mail from AP.

Canseco said he, McGwire and Jason Giambi shot steroids together in the bathroom stall at the Oakland Coliseum, the



Daily News reported. McGwire has always denied using steroids.

"I have always told the truth and I am saddened I continue to

face this line of questioning," McGwire told the newspaper.

Canseco said he introduced Texas teammates Rafael Palmeiro, Ivan Rodriguez and Juan Gonzalez to steroids after being traded to the Rangers in 1992.

"Neither our current owner, general manager and manager were with the Rangers then," Texas spokesman Gregg Elkin said. "The Rangers continue to support baseball's initiative to get steroids out of the game."

Canseco also said President Bush, the Rangers' general managing partner at the time, must have known about the steroid use.

White House spokesman Trent Duffy did not specifically address Canseco's assertion, but said Sunday that Bush's position on steroids "has been known for some time," noting that he condemned the drugs in his 2004 State of the Union address.

A few years ago, Canseco claimed that 80 percent of major leaguers had taken steroids. Last spring, he said: "I think the num-

bers may have changed. Who knows? Maybe the numbers have diminished."

Canseco hit 462 home runs in a major league career from 1985 to 2001.

Baseball recently adopted a tougher steroid-testing program after the sport came under increased scrutiny about the drugs.

Barry Bonds, Gary Sheffield and Giambi testified before a federal grand jury investigating the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative known as BALCO.

D-backs acquire Cruz from Devil Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Devil Rays traded outfielder Jose Cruz Jr. and cash to the Arizona Diamondbacks on Sunday for left-hander Casey Fossum, then agreed to a one-year contract that guarantees the pitcher \$1.05 million.

In addition, Tampa Bay agreed to a \$1.3 million, one-year deal with free-agent first baseman Travis Lee.

Cruz hit .242 with 21 home runs and 78 RBIs for the Devil Rays last season. He has 175 homers and 535 RBIs during eight seasons with Seattle, Toronto, San Francisco and Tampa Bay.

Cruz came a Gold Glove with the Giants in 2003, but is also remembered for his dropped fly ball in the 11th inning of Game 3 of the division series against Florida. The

error allowed the Marlins to rally for a 4-3 victory on their way to the World Series.

Fossum joined the Diamondbacks last offseason as the key prospect in the trade that sent Curt Schilling to Boston. The lefty started 27 games for Arizona, going 4-15 with a 6.65 ERA. He struck out 117 and walked 63 in 142 innings.

Fossum, eligible for salary arbitration for the first time, agreed to a contract that calls for a \$950,000 salary this year.

Wife to play in Women's British Open

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Michelle Wie will play in the 142nd Women's British Open, the Ladies Golf Union said Monday.

The 15-year-old Wie accepted a special exception from the LGU to play at the July 28-31 event at Royal Birkdale.

"We have followed Michelle's development over the last two years with great interest and admiration and in particular her performance in major championships," LGU chief executive Andy Salmon said. "We have no doubt that she is ready to compete with the world's best players at Royal Birkdale."

Wie is one of five amateurs given exemptions to appear in the 144-player field.

Genius, guru, winner

Belichick's third Super Bowl victory in four years moves him alongside Gibbs, Walsh and Lombardi

BY JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Master of details, a football genius, Patriots coach Bill Belichick didn't start off too well in the Super Bowl. He jogged to the wrong sideline before the game.

That was just about the only mistake he made.

"He's a guru, man," linebacker Roman Phifer said Sunday night after Belichick guided New England to a 24-21 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles for his third NFL title in four years. "He loves the game — he eats, breathes and sleeps the game. He doesn't leave anything out."

The victory was Belichick's ninth straight in the postseason and it gave him a career playoff record of 10-1, the best in NFL history, surpassing Vince Lombardi. Commissioner Paul Tagliabue made note of the accomplishment when handing Belichick the championship trophy named for the late Green Bay Packers coach.

"I expect that he would have deep admiration for the way you play," Tagliabue told Belichick.

Is Belichick's third Super Bowl title as a coach, joining Washington's Joe Gibbs and San Francisco's Bill Walsh and just one behind the four Chuck Noll won in Pittsburgh. Like them, Belichick can now claim to be leader of a football dynasty.

"To me this trophy belongs to these players," Belichick said. "They met all corners this year, a very challenging year. We're thrilled to win. These players played great all year, their best in the games, and they deserve it, they really deserve it."

"He's got so much foresight and insight, where he always puts the coaching staff and the players and the whole organization in a position to be successful."

Charlie Weiss
New England assistant

Belichick also won two rings as Bill Parcells' assistant with the New York Giants, earning him the derisive nicknames of "Little Bill" and "Tuna Helper." Now Belichick has surpassed his mentor — and just about every other coach in NFL history, too.

"We started at the bottom of the mountain like everybody else, and we're thrilled to get to the top," Belichick said. "It was one fight against 31 other teams to try to win this Super Bowl and win that trophy. We're happy that we did it. And I'll leave the comparisons and historical perspectives to everybody else."

Belichick's task this time was to devise a game plan to neutralize Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb and keep receiver Terrell Owens from breaking open the game. McNabb didn't break free from the backfield once; Owens caught nine passes for 122 yards but wasn't able to reach the end zone.

Belichick flunked out of his first head coaching job with the Cleveland Browns when the team fell apart after it was announced at midseason that it was moving to Baltimore. Patriots owner Robert Kraft liked Belichick enough after the 1999 season to give the New York Jets a package of draft picks that included a first-round choice for the coach.

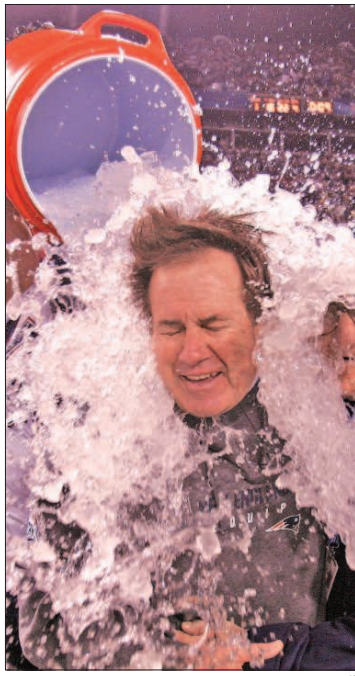
"One of the reasons I hired him, he was understated, he is humble," Kraft said. "He passed his humility on to the team, and that allows us to establish a sense of team. The work ethic and intellect of our coaching staff is really amazing."

Belichick's task for the offseason is to put together a new staff. Offensive coordinator Charlie Weiss is leaving to take over at Notre Dame and defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel has accepted the top job in Cleveland.

But they left as winners. "He makes our job easier. He is such a good leader and he is so prepared," Weiss said. "He's got so much foresight and insight, where he always puts the coaching staff and the players and the whole organization in a position to be successful."

"I think that winning is the greatest tribute to his personnel. He's a great football coach and he's a hell of a guy on top of that." Belichick even got a chance for the traditional ice water bath he's missed during his last two Super Bowl victories because those games weren't decided until the final seconds.

"I hadn't had water dumped on me in a long time, but it felt good," he said. "Whenever they dump water on you, that's a good sign. It was when they throw stuff at you."



New England coach Bill Belichick is doused by his players after the Patriots beat the Philadelphia Eagles 24-21 in Sunday's Super Bowl. It was New England's third NFL title in four seasons under Belichick.

Brady, as always, a cool customer in Super Bowl

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Never mind who was the MVP of this Super Bowl.

Forget about the unlikely return of Terrell Owens, the catch of Corey Dillon celebrating a championship or a New England defense that kept Donovan McNabb on the run, but never let him get very far.

This game ultimately was settled by the quarterbacks, and Tom Brady was super again.

"I felt I was very prepared tonight, more so than ever before," Brady said. "I wish we had gotten things going a little quicker, but I know the ball is going to the right places."

He found David Givens in the corner of the end zone late in the first half, a risky play that paid off for no other reason than the ball was in Brady's magical hands.

He led the Patriots on a 69-yard touchdown drive to start the second half, setting the tone for a final 30 minutes that sent New England to a 24-21 victory and its third championship in four years.

Most importantly, he made only one mistake, losing a fumble after an 82-yard drive that didn't result in points, but kept the Philadelphia defense guessing the rest of the game.

McNabb could only wish he turned in such a performance.

The Eagles' quarterback acquitted himself well in his first Super Bowl, completed 30 of 51 passes for 357 yards and three touchdowns, including a 30-yard shot to Greg Lewis in the back of the end zone that kept Philadelphia's hopes alive to the last minute.

But that's not what he will take away from this game.

"I don't look at the touchdowns. I don't look at any of that," McNabb said. "I look at the three interceptions. As the quarterback, you want to make sure you take care of the ball. Turnovers kill you. And they hurt us today."

If there was a moment that defined the Brady mystique, it came late in the first half, on a play that easily could have put the Patriots in a 14-0 hole at intermission.

On second-and-goal from the 4, Brady dropped back and looked to his right, then threw over the middle. With the Eagles' pass rush closing in, he saw Givens standing on the left side of the end zone. Cornerback Lito Sheppard relaxed slightly, perhaps not believing anyone would dare try such a pass.

That was all the hesitation Brady needed.

He slung the pass sidearm, some 20 yards across the field, and it arrived just before Sheppard did.

"Tom threw it right where he had to throw it," Givens said.

"I looked up and it hit me exactly where I wanted it. Tom placed the ball right on the money."

It had to be. Anything less, and Sheppard had an easy interception — and 100 yards of grass ahead of him.

"The touchdown to Givens, that was about his third read on the play down there," New England coach Bill Belichick said. "That was an outstanding play, because he just read his progression all the way out and made a great read and a throw to Givens."

That touchdown with 1:10 left in the half forced a 7-7 tie.

Equally impressive, but not nearly as picturesque, was the Patriots' next drive.

The Patriots needed to set the tone for the first half. They had struggled against the Eagles' defense to start the game, picking up only one first down on their first four possessions.

The nine-play, 69-yard drive began with a safe, simple route to Deion Branch, the Super Bowl MVP, for 8 yards.

Then came three more good throws to Branch on third-and-10. The drive ended with a great read, and another great throw, to linebacker Mike Vrabel, who had lined up as a tight end and fought through a

hold by defensive end Jevon Kearse to make a juggling catch.

"Tom played an outstanding game," Belichick said. "He hit some big passes, especially those third downs at the start of the second half. That was the key to moving the ball."

Brady joins Terry Bradshaw, Joe Montana and Troy Aikman among quarterbacks with at least three NFL titles; Bradshaw and Montana won four.

McNabb will want another chance to atone for this performance.

The only time he ran was when a screen pass failed, and McNabb was tripped up for a loss of a yard. He got away with a bad interception in the end zone — it was nullified by illegal contact on the Patriots — but threw another ball up for grabs that Rodney Harrison intercepted moments later in the first quarter.

McNabb's second interception was badly underthrown. And his final one, again by Harrison, set off the Patriots' celebration in the winning seconds.

Brady's only misdeed was bumping into Kevin Faulk's hip on a play-action fake on second-and-goal from the 5. The ball hit the ground, and Brady couldn't secure it before the Eagles picked it loose in the pile. Still, Brady was flawless when he had to be. Just like always when the Super Bowl is on the line.

MVP Branch steals the show from T.O.

BY BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The somewhat unheralded group of New England receivers now has a Super Bowl MVP among its ranks.

While Tom Brady, Corey Dillon, Bill Belichick and nearly every Patriots defender has basked in the spotlight during the team's dynastic run, the wideouts haven't gotten much attention. On Sunday night, though, there was no ignoring Deion Branch in the Patriots' 24-21 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.

Branch tied a Super Bowl record with 11 catches, gaining 133 yards and making a half-dozen big plays. No longer is Troy Brown the most recognizable New England pass-catcher — and Brown got most of his headlines for also playing defense.

"He's our biggest, strongest receiver. He does all the dirty work," Brown said. "He leveled a guy on one of runs down the sideline. He doesn't get enough credit. He's a big-time playmaker. Our whole group of receivers doesn't get the credit they deserve."

That's partly because the receivers are so interchangeable. If Branch isn't having a big game, maybe Brown is. Or David Givens. Or David Patten. Or Bethel Johnson. Or one of the tight ends.

But Super Sunday was Branch's star turn. Terrell Owens' return to the Eagles' lineup after nearly seven weeks on the sideline with an ankle injury drew the most attention in pregame buildup. And Owens certainly did his part with nine receptions

for 122 yards.

Still, Branch walked off with a third championship ring and the Pete Rozelle Trophy that Brady took home in the Patriots' last two Super Bowl wins.

"They say big players step up in big games," Branch said.

"All the hoopla was about T.O. He's a great player. He really sucked it up to tonight. But I want to show I have the same type of talent as those guys."

Not that anyone with the Patriots doubted the third-year pro could be so dominant.

A second-round pick out of Louisville in 2002, he caught 43 passes his rookie year. He improved to 57 the following year, but missed seven games this season because of a knee injury. He finished with just 35 catches for 454 yards and four TDs.

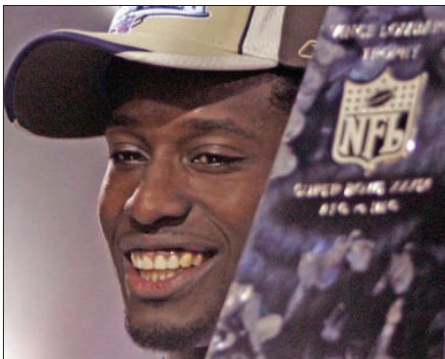
Branch was so frustrated during the recovery process that he didn't travel to every road game.

"My teammates kept pushing me to get better," he said. "They were telling me, 'We're going to need you soon.' I'm just thankful they didn't put me on IR," knowing injured reserve would have ended his season.

Branch found plenty of free space against the NFL's best secondary. It didn't matter who was covering him or what defense the Eagles were playing.

He played a role in all four scoring drives. The biggest catch might have been the last one — a leaping 19-yarder over the middle that set up Adam Vinatieri's 22-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter.

"They did a good job of getting him in



Patriots receiver Deion Branch smiles while holding the Vince Lombardi Trophy on Sunday night. Branch tied the record for receptions in a Super Bowl with 11.

the open zone," All-Pro safety Brian Dawkins said.

In all, eight of his catches for 106 yards came on New England's scoring drives. And his 11 receptions tied Jerry Rice and Cincinnati's Dan Ross for catches in a Super Bowl.

Branch has developed into one of Brady's favorite receivers, usually getting the first look when a blitz is coming or a big catch is needed.

In last year's Super Bowl, Branch had 10 catches and a touchdown in a 32-29 victory over Carolina. Now, he has helped the Patriots become just the second team to win

three Super Bowls in four years.

"He's a very dynamic player," Brady said. "He can do it all — getting open, doing great things after he catches the ball."

The type of things Owens does.

Philadelphia's All-Pro receiver defied his doctor by playing just 6½ weeks after surgery. With a metal plate and two screws in his right ankle, Owens was outstanding.

But Branch was better. "I think Deion kind of put the Patriots receivers on the map a little more with tonight's game," Givens said. "He got us maybe a little more respect than we probably needed that we didn't have."

Owens delivers strong a game on a weak ankle



Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens tries to push his way past Patriots cornerback Randall Gay (21) after a reception in the first quarter.

BY ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Terrell Owens has to save his Super Bowl dance.

The Eagles' All-Pro receiver caught nine passes for 122 yards but didn't score a touchdown, and Philadelphia lost 24-21 to the New England Patriots on Sunday night.

Owens defied his doctor's advice and was in the starting lineup just six weeks after ankle surgery. He made several outstanding catches, and proved right away he was no decoy.

"I knew I was going to play all along," Owens said.

Owens caught a 7-yard pass on Philadelphia's second play — his first action since he severely sprained his ankle and broke his leg in a game against Dallas on Dec. 19.

He had a 30-yard catch-and-run later in the first quarter, setting up a first down at the Patriots 8, which the Eagles failed to turn into points. After that catch, the flamboyant Owens flapped his arms along the sideline. He also had a 36-yard reception in the fourth quarter.

"For him to come back and play the way he played, I've got a lot of respect for him," Patriots linebacker Mike Vrabel said.

Owens was the target on McNabb's incomplete pass that start-

ed the game, and he hauled in a 9-yard reception on the second possession.

He appeared to have no trouble running his patterns, gaining several yards after his catches. Owens seemed out of breath early on when he went to the sideline, but didn't have to sit out plays.

"In this situation, other people like Brett Favre, they would have called him a warrior," Owens said. "For me, they said I was selfish. If I'm selfish, I'm selfish because I want to help my team win."

Owens didn't have any receptions in the second quarter as McNabb spread the ball around and had better success moving the offense, but had two catches during Philadelphia's game-tying drive in the third quarter and six total in the second half.

"It's remarkable how he was able to come back and played so well for us," said McNabb, who had three TDs passes and three interceptions.

Two days after the Eagles won the NFC championship game, Dr. Mark Myerson, the surgeon who operated on Owens' right ankle in December, said he wouldn't clear him to play against the Patriots.

But Owens insisted he would be in the lineup — not just standing on the sideline leading cheers as he did in the NFC title game — when Philadelphia earned its first

Super Bowl appearance since 1981.

It was a fitting stage for Owens, the playmaker, showboater, brash-talking perennial Pro Bowl receiver. But he was denied an opportunity to perform one of his innovative touchdown celebrations in front of his largest audience.

In his first season with the Eagles after eight years in San Francisco, Owens led Philadelphia with 77 catches for 1,200 yards and 14 TDs. He invigorated the Eagles with his attitude, enthusiasm and exceptional play, adding a swagger to a team that desperately needed a personality.

Myerson inserted two screws in Owens' ankle and a plate on the outside of the ankle three days after he was injured. Owens was told after surgery that he had only an outside chance of returning for the Super Bowl. But he rehabbed vigorously, hoping to help Philadelphia win its first NFL championship since 1960.

With Owens, the defense was extremely potent, averaging 25.4 points in 14 games. After Owens was injured, the Eagles lost the last two regular-season games — but most of the starters hardly played and others were rested.

The Eagles scored 27 points in each of their two playoff victories without Owens. But they couldn't pull out a win with him in the biggest game of all.

"We'll be back on this stage," Owens said. "We lost to a good team."



Photo by Matt Bush

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Illini give Indiana freshmen a lesson

The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Indiana coach Mike Davis said he gave his young team a "growing-up pill" by starting four freshmen against top-ranked Illinois.

"I just figured they would never be in this situation or have this opportunity to play the No. 1 team in the country as a freshman on the road in a tough place to play," Davis said Sunday after the Hoosiers lost 60-47 to the unbeaten Illini.

**Men's
Top 25
roundup**

James Hardy replaced injured guard Bracey Wright and joined fellow first-year players D.J. White, A.J. Ratliff and Robert Vaden, leaving junior Marshall Strickland as the only upperclassman in the starting lineup.

The Illini (23-0, 9-0 Big Ten) threatened to make it a blowout early, taking a 20-3 lead behind the sizzling passes of point guard Deron Williams, who had assists on Illinois' first seven baskets.

"I thought we came out really unfocused," said White, who had 12 points. "We had a really bad start to the game. But we battled back."

The Hoosiers (10-10, 5-4) outscored the Illini 17-5 over the final 8:15 of the first half to cut the deficit to 26-20, but Illinois opened the second half with a 13-2 run to take control.

"I'm not sure our guys were mentally ready to play like we need to," Illini coach Bruce Weber said. "They sat in the locker room disappointed. They didn't feel real good about themselves."

Illinois won its 19th straight regular-season Big Ten game and its fifth in a row over Indiana despite its lowest-scoring game this season.

While Illinois struggled against the Hoosiers' zone, Indiana was



Illinois' James Augustine dunks on a breakaway during the first half of Sunday's game against Indiana.

being held to its lowest output since a 55-45 loss to Notre Dame on Dec. 8.

"I think we can shut down anybody in the country if we defend and just play in a frenzy like we always do," said guard Dee Brown, who scored 12 points. "Everybody's looking at the offensive game, especially the fans, but I think we win games off our defense."

Illinois and No. 5 Boston College (20-0) are the only unbeaten teams remaining in Division I.

No. 2 North Carolina 81, Florida St. 60: At Tallahassee, Fla., Rashad McCants had 16 points for the Tar Heels (19-2, 8-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), who blew the game open with a 25-6 run in the second half. Raymond Felton had 14 points for North Carolina.

Von Wafer had 14 points for the Seminoles (11-11, 3-6), who rallied from an 18-point first-half deficit to get within 49-48 before the Tar Heels ran away.

Navy gets revenge in rout

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Taj Mathews scored a career-high 26 points Sunday to lead Navy to an 84-69 victory over Army.

Mathews was 6-for-14 on three-pointers in his final Army-Navy game, leading five Middies in double figures. Mathews also added a career-high eight rebounds.

Greg Sprink added 14 points, including four three-pointers, and 10 rebounds for Navy, which made a season-best 13 threes in a season-high 34 attempts.

Matt Funnin and Corey Johnson added 12 points each and George O'Garro scored 11 for Navy (7-15, 3-6 Patriot League).

Navy avenged a 63-43 loss at Army on Jan. 23 and prevented an Army sweep of the series for the first time since 1992.

Navy held a big rebounding advantage over the Knights (47-29)

and made 23 free throws to Army's 12.

Army (3-18, 1-8) was led by Grant Carter's 21 points, all on three-pointers. Matt Bell added 16 points and Colin Harris 12.

The teams tied a combined 57 three-pointers. Navy's 13 three-pointers were the second-most in school history.

Navy jumped to a 12-1 lead as Army missed its first seven shots and didn't score a basket over the first six minutes.

The Middies ran the lead to 34-19 before Army went on a 13-0 run to end the half. Navy didn't score over the final 4:22 of the half, missing its final six shots.

The teams were tied 37-37 with 18:30 to play when Navy went on a 14-2 run to build a 51-39 advantage with 14:10 to play.

Army again rallied, closing to 71-67 with 3:50 to play as Carter hit three three-pointers, but Navy had too much down the stretch.

SPORTS



Yao boosts Rockets
over Lakers,
Page 34

Team for the ages

Dynasty talk builds with Pats' third Super title

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The whole thing must have seemed routine to the New England Patriots: confetti fluttering across the field, fireworks brightening the night sky, a carefully choreographed championship trophy presentation.

Downright ordinary, right? Hardly.

The Patriots became a full-fledged dynasty with their third Super Bowl victory in four years, beating the Philadelphia Eagles 24-21 Sunday night.

New England claimed a spot alongside the Green Bay Packers of the 1960s, the Pittsburgh Steelers of the '70s, the San Francisco 49ers of the '80s, the Dallas Cowboys of the '90s.

A team for the decade. A team for the ages.

"We're champions now. That's it," safety Rodney Harrison said. "I don't know about dynasty."

Trust us, Rodney, this group fits the definition in every respect. New England becomes just the seventh franchise to claim back-to-back titles. The Cowboys are the only other team to win the championship three times over a four-year period.

Typically, the Patriots didn't leave themselves much room. All three of their Super Bowls have been decided by three points — the previous two on last-second field goals by Adam Vinatieri. By comparison, only two of the first 33 Super Bowls were within field goal range at the end.

But what they lack in style, the Patriots more than make up with their steely determination to do whatever it takes to win. When the Eagles jumped to a 7-0 lead, New England responded with a touchdown of its own late in the first half.

When Philadelphia tied the game at 14 late in the third quarter, the Patriots marched right down the field for Corey Dillon's 2-yard touchdown. And, in a fitting bit of synergy, Vinatieri booted a 22-yard field goal with 8:40 remaining that provided the margin of victory.



Inside:

■ Brady nearly flawless in leading team to third title in four years, Page 31

■ Dillon caps image repairing season with championship, Page 30



■ Belichick, like team, puts his name among legends, Page 31

■ Patriots receiver Branch overshadows Owens' return to claim MVP award, Page 32



KRT PHOTOS

Above: Super Bowl MVP Deion Branch of the New England Patriots holds the Lombardi Trophy with head coach Bill Belichick after a victory over Philadelphia Sunday in Jacksonville, Fla. Left: Philadelphia receiver Terrell Owens walks off the field after his team's loss. Owens, who is recovering from an ankle injury and played against his doctor's wishes, finished with nine catches for 122 yards.

SEE DYNASTY ON PAGE 29

Mickelson earns first victory of the year Page 29

